PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

JOY OF FLYING. Nikko Tañada, 16, who lost a leg to bone cancer, waves to the crowd from a plane flying over the athletics Magsaysay farm in Pampanga.

LEARNING
Billy The Kid, aka Ahuera, rides again

ACROSS
Flooded East Samar towns need help

LATE SPORTS
Ginebra gets back at SMB; Talk 'N Text squares series

39 special kids reach for the sky

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

MAGALANG, Pampanga—Dressed with a runny air cool day and aided by 15 aircraft manned by Filipino and foreign pilots, 39 special children and teens from Luzon teamed and felt what it was like to be up in the sky while enjoying an aerial view of Mt. Arayat and Central Luzon's verdant farms.

TO SPECIAL A11

Slain councilman given hero's burial

Reservist accorded 21-gun salute

By Nino Calleja

THE SLAIN councilman who captured his killer on camera was accorded a hero's burial with a 21-gun salute under a somber sky yesterday afternoon.

Rites fell where the body of Reynaldo Dagsa, a first-term councilor and peacekeeper of Barangay 35, was laid to rest at Eternal Gardens in Caloocan City.

Army Col. Eduardo Javier Jr., commanding officer of the 15th Infantry Division, as the Manly Reserve of the Philippine Army, described Dagsa as "a real hero."

"In a community where violence happens everyday, either you hide or do something," he said. "Dagsa chose to do something."

Javier said Dagsa, who died while performing his duty, deserved to be given the highest military honors.

"Even though he was not in uniform when he was killed, what he did for his community was tantamount to the deed of a regular military man," he said.

A squad of military reservists rendered the 21 gun salute before Dagsa's casket was lowered to the ground and his wife Arlene, two children and immediate family smiled.

The 36-year-old barangay councilor fatally called "Bubuy" was fatally shot moments after he snapped a picture of his killer by security their Mayapas home just after the New Year's Eve revelry.

Gamble A11

DRENCHED DEVOTEES. Protected from Sunday's downpour by an umbrella, the image of the Black Nazarene, escorted by a multitude of devotees, crosses Muñoz-Ibar Bridge toward Quiapo Church in Manila.

Millions escort Black Nazarene

By DJ Yap, Marlon Ramos and Jaymee T. Gamil

FOR 14 HOURS or more, the centuries-old statue of the Black Nazarene bore not just the cross on its back but the prayers and dreams of its legions of Filipino devotees.

Defying the heat and hours of rain, a multitude of believers—many of them barefoot—carried the life-size image of a resident Christ in a frenzied demonstration of faith through the streets of downtown Manila.

Many took part in the annual feast to implore God for help in solving misery, family or business problems. Some came to ask or to be healed of maladies, while at least one came to pray that he win at the lotto.

Many others came to thank the Black Christ for blessings received.

Monday's Police District Director, Chief Supt. Roberto Rosarpella, said 1.2 million attended a dawn Mass at Rizal Park's Quirino Grandstand before the procession began, and 1.3 million others attended the procession.

CONTINUED A11

Women devotees join mad frenzy for flowers

By Jocelyn R. Uy

BAREFOOT and clad in maroon and gold, Gerason Tiecha excitedly washed a stem of a white Mussaenda in her small brown bag, hoping to use it to adorn her altar at home.

Every year during the Feast of the Black Nazarene, the 10-year old Tiecha joins

WORSHIP A11

Military frees last mutinous officer

By Dona Pazcoguin

SIX WEEKS after he escaped the siege of the Peninsula Manila hotel on Nov. 29, 2007, Capt. Nicanor Faeldon joined the procession of the Black Nazarene.

The rebel Marine officer had been joining the annual event as a fugitive from then.

Yesterday, Faeldon, who was convicted a week after President Arroyo issued absolute pardon to him last year, again participated in the procession, but this time as a free man.

It was, he said, a "thanksgiving."

On Saturday, Faeldon was released on orders of Gen. Victor Ibrado, chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, to the custody of Marine Maj. Gen. Aniceto Sobrepeña, Fleet/ARG Command chief.

Faeldon was the last rebel officer to be freed amid amnesty by Mr. Aquino to grant amnesty to soldiers involved in coup attempts against then President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo...the July 2003 Oakwood mutiny, the

FAELDON A10

From chief troubleshooter to 'water boy'

By Christine O. Avendaño and Norman Bordadora

PRESIDENT Aquino's new troubleshooter sees himself as a mere assistant.

"I'm just a water boy, following orders," Manuel Pinoy II said on Thursday when he joined the President at Terminal 2 of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport during the awarding for the 50th million passenger of Cebu Pacific.

Mr. Aquino indicated on Friday that Pinoy would be a very important official in his Cabinet after

PINOY CLARIFY A10

Arizona shooting shocks US

6 killed; congresswoman fighting for life

TUCSON, Arizona—A 53-year-old congresswoman was in critical condition on Sunday after being shot in the head by a gunman who opened fire at a public event, killing six people in an attack that shocked America.

Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, 40, a member of President Barack Obama's Democratic Party, was meeting constituents at a supermarket in Tucson, Arizona, when the assailant unleashed a volley of automatic fire from a 9-mm pistol.

A federal judge and a 9-year-old girl and were among those killed. Twelve others were wounded.

Obama called the attack "a tragedy for Arizona and a tragedy for our entire country."

The House of Representatives, which opened under new Republican leadership just three days earlier, called off proceedings for the upcoming week.

Two bystanders tackled the gunman, identified as 22-year-old local resident Jared Lee Loughner. News reports said he had filled the Internet with angry and largely incoherent rants, denunciations of the government,

ARIZONA A8

CANDLE VIGIL. A picture of US Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, who was shot in the head, is surrounded by candles during a vigil outside the University Medical Center in Tucson, Arizona.

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FRONTPAGE

'PH unlikely to meet education goal'

US cites Unesco report, factors for failure to meet millennium dev't target

By Jerry E. Esplanada

WASHINGTON believes the Philippines is "unlikely" to meet its second Millennium Development Goal, which is achieving universal primary education, by 2015, according to a report by the US Embassy in Manila that was furnished the Inquirer.

The embassy cited, among other things, the 2010 Education for All Global Monitoring Report to which the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco) referred to the Philippines as a "country that should not have had difficulty in meeting its targets."

"The Unesco report notes that even as the number of El Nino adults fell to the last data region, the Philippines experienced a large increase in adult illiteracy, from 1.6 million new adult illiterates in the period 2000-2007," said the embassy.

The Aquino administration has allocated P307.1.6 billion for the education sector's total budget for 2011, surpassing the appropriations of any of its predecessors.

However, the embassy said "resource gaps have grown larger as funding has generally not kept pace with the pace of population growth and increasing demands."

"Only 2.2 percent of (gross national product) is invested by the Philippines in the education sector compared with 3.6 percent in the East Asian region," it noted.

Negative trends

The mission also cited the following negative trends:

- Net enrollment rates have stagnated, increasing the number of children who dropped out of the formal school system.
- Cohort survival rates leave much to be desired and point to education system inefficiencies.
- Teacher training facilities in the country appear to be ill-prepared to produce teachers for effective performance in the classroom.
- Despite the existence of several world-class quality higher education institutions, the bulk of higher education institutions fail to produce graduates to compete successfully in the local and global economy. Those who are fortunate enough to obtain an education too often find a mismatch between the knowledge and skills associated with higher education degrees and employer expectations.

The embassy said regional disparities were further complicating the picture.

"The education situation in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), Zamboanga Peninsula and Basilan is particularly dismal," it said.

Dropout rates

Citing the 2008 Functional Literacy, Education and Mass Media Survey, the mission said that "while the school dropout rate in Mindanao is about 30 percent compared with 6 percent nationally, it reached nearly 38 percent in the ARMM. The Eastern Visayas region is the only other region that approximates similar statistics."

The Department of Education "has over the years supported numerous initiatives to counter these trends, including dropout prevention programs and reforms in the overall education sector management," said the embassy.

"Perceived among these is the Basic Education Sector Reform Agenda, an overarching policy framework launched in 2006 to improve overall sector performance which was recently reviewed by the World Bank but findings are not yet available.

"Circular reform was also undertaken and many improvement programs were launched, such as School-based Management and Government Assistance to Teachers and Students in Private Education, along with an Information and Communication Technology for Education strategy and the Adopt-a-School program," the embassy said.

Cause of poor learning

Citing the 2010 Education Outcomes in the Philippines working paper of the Asian Development Bank, among other studies, the mission said "the leading cause of poor learning outcomes and rising school dropout rates remains widespread poverty."

"Lack of access to culturally sensitive and health care has also been cited as a leading factor contributing to poor basic education outcomes, particularly in the ARMM," it said.

The embassy said "resource constraints and resulting shortages of teachers, principals, materials and classroom space" and "not participating fully in the ARMM, where 70 percent of schools operate without private, public and many schools are not able to offer a full cycle of elementary education."

USAID assessment project

The US Agency for International Development, or USAID, is using these data as "background" information in its Philippine Education Sector Assessment project.

USAID is submitting proposals from both US and non-US educational organizations to come up with a comprehensive assessment of the Philippine education sector.

The assessment aims to guide USAID in its new education sector priority-setting process.

"Special consideration should be given to the ARMM where needs are among the greatest in the country," the embassy said.

For the period 2009 to 2013, USAID has set aside $2.86 million (nearly P8 billion) in its "investing in people to reduce poverty" program in the Philippines.

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Aquino disavowal augurs well for Cha-cha, says solon

By Gil Cabacungan

PRESIDENT Aquino's declaration that he will not seek political office today is expected to expedite what has triggered a reversal of Charter change (Cha-cha) in the House of Representatives.

Eastern Samar Rep. Ben Evardone said Mr. Aquino's pronouncement would make him the school leader to consider next Cha-cha because he could not be accused of running in bringing up amendments to the Constitution.

Evardone said Cha-cha failed in the past because of conspiracy from those who included Senator Juan Ponce Enrile, Senate President Manuel Villar, Speaker Feliciano Belmonte and Mr. Aquino's predecessor Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo wanted to extend their terms of office.

Evardone said that with President Aquino's high trust rating, "the people would not suspect political motives as the reasons for calling for Charter change."

Evardone, a former ally of Arroyo who is now a spokesman of President Aquino, said other representatives supported his proposal.

But another Aquino ally, Cavite Rep. Joseph Emilio Aguinaldo Abaya, said Cha-cha talk was "premature" in the young administration.

"We still have things to fix and to set our agenda to pursue. Let us first show to our people the right way to govern," said Abaya in a text message.

Quezon Rep. Lorenzo Tañada III agreed that Cha-cha was not among the priorities of the Aquino administration.

There are several House bills and resolutions seeking Charter change, including House Resolution No. 6 which was filed by Arroyo and first son, Camarines Sur Rep. Diosdado Arroyo, on the First working day of the 15th Congress.

In their resolution, the Arroyos called for the creation of a constitutional convention (Con-con) to propose amendments to the Constitution and make the country more global ly competitive. They said a Con-con (where the members would be elected and not handpicked) was the best mode for Charter change because it was the "least controversial method."

Senator also stressed Aquino's vow not to seek election after his 2010 six-good term—but he differentiates.

It augurs well for Senate approval of the proposed amendments to the Constitution, said Sen. Pia Cayetano. She said she is categorically opposed to any action that any action of his will not be perceived as motivated by personal ambition, and that any policy adopted is not for his personal benefit, but for the good of the country. — With TJ Burgonio and Joey A. Gabieta, Inquirer Visayas

European Union aids undernourished kids

THE EUROPEAN Union (EU) has announced a grant of 20 million euros to the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) to tackle child undernutrition in the Philippines and four other countries in Southeast and South Asia.

Millions of children throughout the region are not getting the nutrition they need for proper physical and mental development during childhood or to maximize their productivity as adults, according to Unicef.

Its 4-year Maternal and Child Nutrition Security project is expected to benefit the entire region but pays special emphasis on five countries with poor nutrition records and with potential for success—Bangladesh, Indonesia, Laos, Nepal and the Philippines.

The EU grant is deemed an important contribution to a multi-donor action that is expected to lead to gains exceeded treasurers.

During the Maternal and Child Nutrition Security project, Unicef will work with government and partners to directly benefit 20 million children and 1 million pregnant and lactating women.

It will also work to increase knowledge and understanding of good nutrition among policymakers, medical professionals and families.

The project aims to innovate and build on current policies and practices in countries, and thus highlight nutrition as an issue priority in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

More than a third of child deaths and 11 percent of the total disease burden worldwide are due to malnutrition's child underdevelopment, as confirmed by data presented in a groundbreaking series on nutrition in 2008.

Nearly half of the 24 countries with the largest number of chronically undernourished children are in Southeast and South Asia despite relatively good economic growth in recent years, according to Unicef's 2009 nutrition report. Tim Evans, Program Chief and Maternal Nutrition: A Survival and Development Priority.

"Undernourish is doesn't necessarily follow that as an economy gets richer, nutrition gets better. It's not a direct link," said Frances Davis, Unicef nutrition adviser in Asia and the Pacific.

SEE BACK PAGE OF FIRST BUSINESS SECTION

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Slain councilman given hero's burial

From page A1

The startling photograph, first published in the Internet and later in media networks here and abroad, also captured his assassin who was aiming a .45 cal. pistol at Dagoc while a kneeled stood behind his wife, daughter and in-law.

Justice for Bulay

The gunmen, Artel Sumalbe, 26, was captured on Thursday night in Antota, Indanan.

"Help us achieve justice," Adonis pleaded to reporters at the funeral. "The quest for it is not yet over. May those responsible not to jail."

Most of those who attended the burial were black shirts marked "Justice for Engineer Bulay." Around 30 motorcycle riders and dozens of military reservists also joined the funeral procession.

Dagoc became a reserve corporal of the 203rd Brigade of the Army Reserve Command in Camalaniugan after attending a military training in 2008.

Fearless crusader

Henry Devilla, a colleague of Dagoc in Barangay 35 and also a motorist, said the councilor was fearless in dealing with Barcelon's group of robbers.

"Who do they think they are? Why should we be afraid? They are at the wrong side of the law," Devilla quoted what Dagoc would tell colleagues in the barangay peacekeeping activities team.

The team composed of barangay officials and volunteers was tapped by the Philippine National Police to maintain peace and order in local communities.

"If he was first-favored, he would have stopped a long time ago," Devilla said.

After his inquest at the prosecutor's office on Saturday for murder, Sumalbe was detained at the Cotabato City jail. Two men who served as lookouts were earlier arrested.

Dagoc and the police had been attempting to neutralize Sumalbe's group for at least two years, Devilla said.

No remorse

In November last year, Devilla was shot at by Sumalbe during a confrontation. The councilor witnessed the shooting and submitted his affidavit for the filing of frustrated murder charges in court.

Sumalbe has allegedly killed three other persons, including an agent of the National Bureau of Investigation, Devilla said.

Sumalbe showed no remorse while being interviewed from behind in the Cotabato jail, said Senior Supt. Aslo Santos, Cotabato police chief.

"He even boasts a great deal about what he did," Santos said.

In front of 75 cameras, Sumalbe admitted killing Dagoc because the councilman had engaged him in a shoot-out. Dagoc's colleagues denied the claims, saying Barcelon was making up the story.

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Hero's burial for officer who died after passing fitness test

By Dona Pazzibugan

THE MARINE officer who succumbed to a heart attack after a physical fitness test last week will be given a hero's burial, the Navy announced.

Lt. Col. Leonard Vincent Teodoro, 42, assistant chief for operations of the Marine Corps Staff (MCS), will be laid to rest at the Libingan ng mga Bayani in Fort Bonifacio on Jan. 13, according to Navy spokesperson Capt. Clemente Rocorde, "to honor the service and sacrifice he had rendered to the country."

As previous commanding officer of Marine Battalion Landing Team-7 based in Basilan, Teodoro led his men in successful operations against the Abu Sayyaf and other lawless groups, neutralizing some of their leaders.

Teodoro graduated from the Philippine Military Academy in 1989. He died on Jan. 5 after suffering cardiac arrest following a physical fitness test which consisted of push-ups, sit-ups and a 3.2-kilometer run at Camp Aguinaldo.

He passed the test, a requisite for promotion to the rank of colonel, and was walking on his cool-down when he collapsed.

He suffered a cardiac cardiac death, said Capt. Vicente Tiu, officer in charge of the Camp Aguinaldo Station Hospital emergency room.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines spokesperson said the AFP would review its physical exam policy following Teodoro's death.

Teodoro's remains lie at the AFP Mortuary of the Southern Naval Station in Taguig City.

Teodoro and his wife, Lt. Angelyn, had two children, Louis Andrea, 13, and Adrian Vincent, 11.

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Arizona shooting shocks US; 6 killed

Front page A1

while the Army said he had tried to enlist two years ago but was rejected.

A Loughner profile posted on YourTube listed Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels' "The Communist Manifesto" and Adolf Hitler's "Mein Kampf" among his favorite books.

"There's some reason to believe that he came to this location with another individual," Sheriff Clarence Dupnik told reporters, saying the gunman "has kind of a troubled past, and we're not convinced that he acted alone."

Dozens used a bullet panned through Giffords' brain. Despite initial media reports she had died, local television networks said late Saturday she was unable to her hospital bed and recognized her husband, Mark astronaut Mark Kelly, who has piloted space shuttles Endeavor and Discovery.

Critical condition

"She is in critical condition [but] I'm optimistic about her recovery" said Dr. Peter Rhee, the trauma chief of the University Medical Center in Tucson. "We answer tell what kind of recovery but I'm about as optimistic as you can get."

At a later briefing however, Giffords family friend and former UA lawyer Central Richard Carmona was more cautious, saying "While guarded optimism, I hope that she will survive, but this is a very devastating wound."

The gunman went on a rampage as Giffords was hosting an event dubbed "Congress on Your Corner" at a Safeway supermarket in a strip mall off a major interstate in Tucson, a city of rolling desert and retirement in the fast-growing southwestern state.

Giffords, like most said, and-file US legislators, received without any security detail, according to witnesses.

The shooting came amid heightened security after packages ignited in a post office in Washington on Friday and two government buildings in neighboring Maryland on Thursday.

'Victim'

Gabrell Dupnik noted two incidents involving Giffords during the recent election campaign—one when at a meeting "someone in the audience dropped a gun out of their pocket," while in another windows were broken at her offices.

"When you look at unbalanced people, how they respond to the victim that comes out of private meetings about tearing down the government. The anger, the hatred, the bigotry that goes on in this country is getting to be outrageous," the sheriff said.

"And unfortunately, Arizona I think has become the capital. We have become the lamest for prejudice and bigotry," he added.

Dupnik said a suspicious package had been found at Giffords' headquarters since the shooting, which was being investigated.

Giffords, the first Jewish woman to be elected to Congress from Arizona, barely survived a bruising reelection bid last year in a Republican rival from the right-wing Tea Party movement.

Giffords was a centrist and a member of the so-called Blue Dog Coalition of Democrats who support fiscal conservative, pro-business policies.

'Unspeakable'

She has pushed for more troops to guard the nearby US-Mexico border and favored a path to legalization that would require illegal immigrants to pass a criminal background check, pay back taxes and learn English.

Obama condemned the attack as an "unspeakable tragedy," adding that "such a senseless and terrible act of violence has no place in our society."

Arizona Sen. John McCain, a former Republican presidential candidate, said: "Whoever did this, whatever their reason, they are a disgrace to Arizona, this country and the human race."

While America has witnessed a spate of shootings, assassination attempts against elected officials are rare. The last major incident was in 1981 when then President Ronald Reagan was shot and injured at a Washington hotel.

The only member of Congress ever to die in the line of duty was Leo Ryan, a California Democrat killed in 1978 in Guyana as he investigated a cult that later carried out a monstrous mass suicide.

Threats against judge

Former Arizona Attorney General Terry Goddard said there had been previous threats against slain federal Judge John Roll ahead of the Nov. 2 midterm elections, in which the Republicans trounced Obama's Democrats.

Goddard, who also drums the ire of rightist politicians like Sarah Palin who had controversially placed the lawmaker on a political hit list, putting her under an image of a gun's crosshairs for her support of Obama's health care overhaul.

On Saturday, however, Palin offered condolences for the victims, writing on her Facebook page. "We all pray for the victims and their families, and for peace and justice."

Rep. Eric Cantor, the new Republican majority leader in the House, announced that all pre-existing months he postponed the following week "so that we can take whatever actions may be necessary in light of (Saturday's) tragedy." *Reports from AFP and AP*

VICTIM Democrat Rep. Gabrielle Giffords is shown taking part in a meet-and-greet with constituents.

SUSPECT Jared L. Loughner, identified by all federal law enforcement officials as the suspected gunman in the shooting of Giffords, is seen in this undated photo from the 2006 Mountain View High School yearbook obtained from his classmate in Tucson, Arizona.

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PUBLIC ADVISORY

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3D	
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3D2	
2D3	
3D3	

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

JANUARY 10 (Monday)
Psalter: Week 1
1st Week in Ordinary Time
Ps 97: 1 and 2b, 3, 7, 9
Let all his angels worship him.
1st Reading 1 Jn 2:18-21
Brothers and sisters, "Evil has spoken to the past: we have heard it from the prophets, in many different ways, although never completely; but in our times he has spoken definitively to us through his Son."
He is the one God appointed heir of all things, since through him he established the ages of the world.
He is the radiance of God's glory and bears the stamp of God's hidden being, so that his powerful word upholds the universe. And after he had by himself accomplished purification from sins, he took his place at the right hand of the divine Majesty in heaven.
He has now far surpassed the angels just as the name he received is more sublime than theirs. To which angel did God ever say: You are my son, I have begotten you today? and to what angel did he promise: I shall be a father to him, and he will be a son to me? Or speaking his Firstborn to the world, God says: Let all the angels adore him.
Gospel Mk 1:14-20
After John was arrested, Jesus went into Galilee and began preaching the Good News of God. He said, "The time has come, the Kingdom of God is at hand. Change your ways and believe the Good News."
As Jesus was walking along the shore of Lake Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net in the lake, for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fish for people."
At once, they left their nets and followed him. Jesus went a little further on and saw James and John, the sons of Zebedee, they were in their boat mending their nets. Immediately Jesus called them and they followed him, leaving their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men.
Reflections:
It immediately hints everything behind to follow Jesus in what is today, our following of Jesus happens in stages. We receive the call, we follow, and yet we also return to our former way of life. Then, the self-sense-application once again we respond to follow Jesus on the way. Following Jesus is not something we do once and for all, but an ongoing process, like our life. Let us not be misled by our life and participate in church that our following of Jesus is something static. It is not a goal but a process.

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Business scion takes Asian stage

AT AGE 33 with a fast-growing fleet of planes and enough cash from his food-retailer mother, Philippine tycoon Lance Gokongwei is striking out confidently in the world's most populous region.

Best known as the boss of budget carrier Cebu Pacific, the 43-year-old also heads a conglomerate that is involved in an array of ventures, with one channeling the cash of the biggest companies fund business in fast-fast Asia.

Thrust by his rags-to-riches father to lead the family-owned businesses in 2002, the ES-educated Gokongwei said the group had morphed feverishly to diversify and become what players across a range of markets throughout Asia.

"I think any family business has to adapt because things are so much more competitive now," the assured, soft-spoken Indian of two told AFP in a recent interview at his office in a Manila high-rise owned by the family.

"Our job, really, is to push into overseas [markets]."

The airline and its mass-Southeast Asia branded food manufacturing business, Universal Robina Corp., are the two biggest moneymakers of the listed family conglomerate, JG Summit Inc., capitalized at about $3 billion.

It also has interests in real estate, hotels, retailing, telecommunications, petrochemicals and banking.

On the food side, the company sells $1.15 billion worth of wafers, potato chips, tea, coffee and chocolates each year in the Philippines, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam and China.

Struggling, but with little debt

The food business, which calls itself the Philippines' first multinational, has struggled in China but succeeded elsewhere and has little debt, said April Tan, research chief with stock brokers Unicapital Inc.Inc.

With steady built in profits coming from outside the Philippines, the company's debt to breadtwo to four are paying handsome dividends, Tan told AFP.

"If you're entering in a bigger market, the earnings potential is much higher," Tan added.

Cebu Pacific, a no-frills carrier with dancing flight attendants, has similarly started to spread its wings across Asia after success at home.

When the airline began flying in 1996 with the motto, "It's time everyone flies," few Filipinos would afford to travel by air and hundreds were dying each year in ferry disasters.

It has since become the country's biggest airline in terms of domestic passengers, eclipsing national carrier Philippine Airlines.

With Cebu Pacific, it's quite clear they're capturing the bulk of the market and, obviously, they're the fastest growing carrier in the country," Tan said.

Gokongwei company shares surged last year ahead of the airline's listing, raising the family into the country's third richest and pushing it on Forbes magazine's billionaires' list, its worth estimated at $1.5 billion.

Working for dad

A fitness nut who ran the New York Marathon last year, Gokongwei said that at times he and his father, John, a Chinese immigrant who remains the group's largest shareholder, disagree on which countries or businesses to invest in.

In the end though, the old man, who made his name in a rub-tuber, gets his way.

"I'm a working man, I'm working for him," said the son, who went to business school at the University of Pennsylvania.

The son, however, proved his mettle by resolving the tearing airline after one of its planes crashed into a mountain killing all 104 people aboard in 1998, according to Manila businessman Antonio Ramon Chiquiabo.

"Lance is well regarded and has a reputation of being a bright, more refined version of his father," Ongpalio, a former director of the Financial Executives of the Philippines, told AFP.

"Lance will take JG Summit to a bigger and better future."

AFP

Foreign arrivals rose despite travel advisories–BI

By Jerome Aning

DESPITE a spate of negative travel advisories, the number of foreigners who visited the Philippines last year rose to more than 3.4 million, an increase of almost 20 percent compared to 2009, the Bureau of Immigration (BI) said yesterday.

Immigration officers in-charge Rosalilia Ledesma and foreigner arrivals totaled 3,451,995 in 2010, or 19.5 percent higher than the 2,887,303 who came to the country the previous year.

"The negative advisories of foreign governments warning their citizens against going to the Philippines did not have any impact at all," Ledesma said in a statement.

International traveler arrivals even peaked during the last quarter of the year, when most of the advisories were issued due to reported threats of terror attacks to be soon to be added.

BI records showed that from 138,828 foreign visitor arrivals in September, the number increased steadily to 294,779 in October, 330,492 in November, and 300,601 in December.

"These numbers send a very clear message that the vast majority of the international community in the Philippines and the government of President Aquino is very strong. The amount of alleged or perceived terror threats would shake or erode that confidence," he said.

Ledesma noted that BI statistics were consistent with the Department of Tourism's target of 3.3 million tourist arrivals in 2010.

BI's 3.4 million arrivals included all types of international travelers, including tourists, balikbayans, expatriates, students and holidaymakers who had acquired foreign citizenship.

If immigration regulations dictate their alberto Bragazzo said that of the 3.4 million foreigners who came last year, about 80 percent or 2.7 million landed at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport while the rest entered at other ports such as Mactan, Cebu and Davao.

Court orders Piatco to answer tax claim

THE COURT of Appeals (CA) has ordered Philippine International Air Terminals Co. Inc. (Piatco) to respond to the Bureau of Internal Revenue's (BIR) claim that it failed to unveil the government some P1 billion in taxes for the importation of construction materials when it built the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3 (Nido 1).

In a two-page resolution dated Dec. 16 but only released Friday, the CA's Third Division granted the BIR's motion for reconsideration seeking a reversal of a Pasay City court order barring the agency from issuing a final tax assessment notice on Piatco.

The CA, however, said the order for Piatco to answer the charge was "without necessarily giving due course" to the main petition filed by the BIR. The company has 10 days to reply.

CA Associate Justice Bienvenido Reyes penned the resolution, which was concurred in by Associate Justices Estela Perlas-Bernabe and Elihu Ybañez.

The BIR petition before the CA stemmed from the company summoning order (TSO) issued by Judge Edwin Ramirez of Pasay RTC Branch 134, which stopped the BIR from making a final assessment of Piatco's tax liability.

The BIR claimed the RTC committed grave abuse of discretion in issuing the TSO, saying that only the Court of Tax Appeals had exclusive appellate jurisdiction over tax cases.

Jerome Aning

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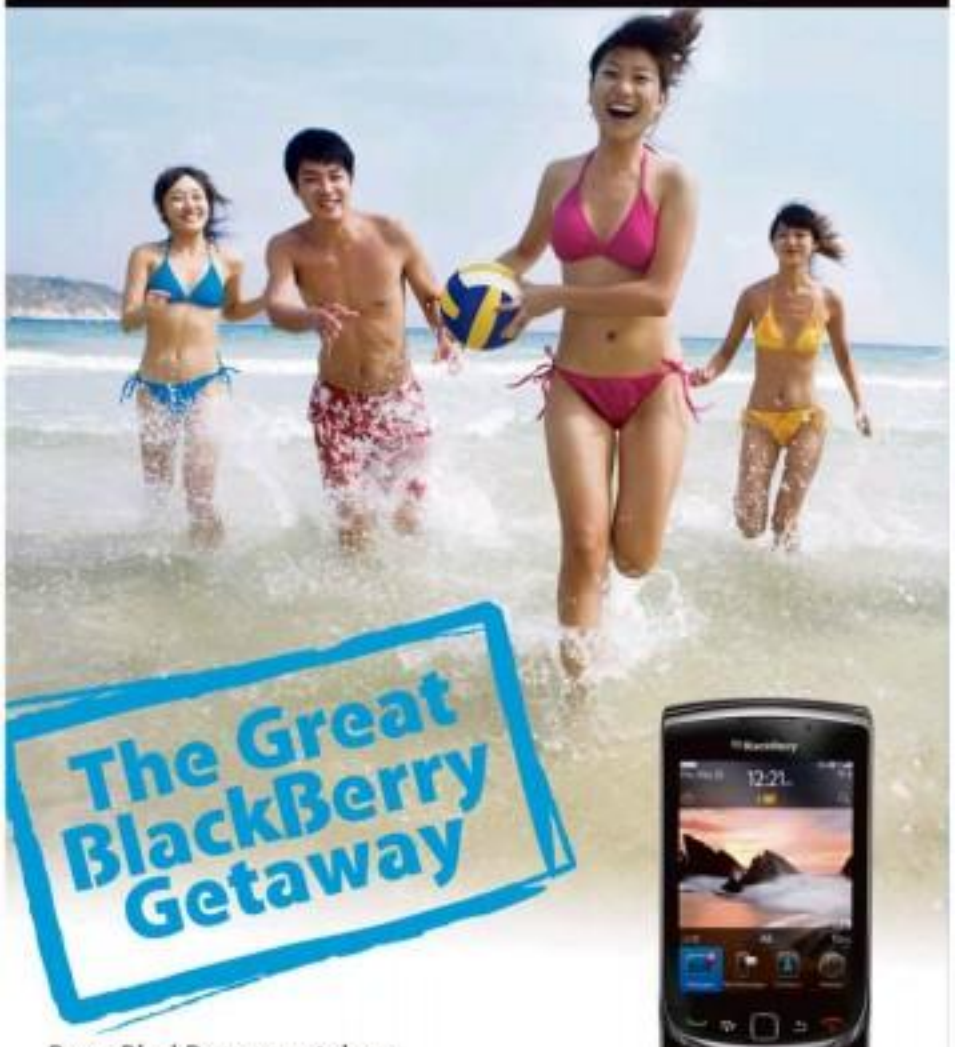

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Aquino names 35 new execs

By Christine D. Avendaño

MALACAÑANG yesterday announced 35 more appointments to various executive positions, mostly new police officials, as well as board members of the National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP) and Clark International Airport Corp. (CIAC).

Food Lion Cantalloza has been designated police deputy director general, according to deputy presidential spokesperson Abigail Valte who said 16 other police officers were promoted to director, chief superintendent and senior superintendent.

Valte said Malacañang had filled 90 percent of the 8,000 executive positions that were vacant when the Aquino administration came into office six months ago.

In Socioeconomic Mangahas and Dr. Stella Bonifacio were appointed to the NHCP board with a four-year tenure each, while Br. Bienvenido Lumbera was appointed board member with a three-year term.

Valte said Eric Distrocillo was named acting executive director of the Bureau of Immigration.

Ruben Gabreza was named director general (DG), replacing Alfonso Cusi who resigned last May. Appointed deputy directors general at CIAC were John Wesley Andrews and Napoleon Garcia.

Named to the CIAC board of directors was Jose Mo. Serrano Jr., designated as chairman. Also appointed as directors were Eliseo Pena, Wilfredo Ilogia, Andrew Smallone, Edgardo Cuison and Wilson Mendoza.

President Aquino also designated Jose Martin Ocnas Alling as chair of Social Security Commission (whose) as member of the Southbid board.

Libel raps filed by 'Firm' junked

By Leila B. Salaverria

FOUR LIBEL complaints filed against lawyer Francisco Chavez by personnel of the Villaraza Cruz Marcelo and Angara (VCM) Law Office have been dismissed by government prosecutors in several cities, with one saying it appeared that the law partners were forum shopping since the suits stemming from a single incident were filed in different places.

Two libel cases were filed in Marikina and one each in Pasig and Cebu City. They originated from a feud between the law firm and Chavez, who is also facing two more such suits. One was filed by Board Member Jesus Crispin C. Remulla of the CVC Law Office, while the other was filed by a fifth partner in Danton Ong.

All the cases contained Tom Chavez' statements in media interviews that CVC, known as "The Firm" for its renowned far-reaching influence, was involved in influence-peddling and illegal transactions.

Chavez said the filing of libel cases against him in different cities was meant to "harass, victimize and terrorize me" because he had filed a libel case against CVC lawyers for saying that he had a record "seldom aired" by obituary.

Chavez said the libel cases filed separately by the CVC partners were unnecessary since the firm itself had already filed a complaint against him.

"It's an act of total intimidation which is really way out of line because they had already filed a counterclaim for libel on behalf of the entire law firm," he said.

Forum shopping is the practice of filing multiple suits involving the same parties, for the same cause of action, in order to get a favorable judgment in at least one of them.

The CVC law partners deposed the allegations of forum shopping and have filed motions for reconsideration of the dismissal of their complaints.

Spokesperson Miguel Silva said it was the right of each partner who felt maligned by Chavez to file a case against him in the city where they lived.

"We labeled different partners of our firm. These partners reside in different places. That's the procedural requirement—to file the cases where you reside," Silva said.

Saan man sa bansa ang biyahe, protektado.

Sa magkatuwang na paghuloy at maayos na kontribusyon sa SSS, panatag ang loob ng mga operators at drivers.

Mga benepisyo ay maagap na mapapakinabangan sa panahon ng pangangailangan.

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PAYMENT CENTERS

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SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM

Customs seizes P20M in goods

CUSTOMS agents have seized P20 million worth of misdeclared and undeclared goods, mostly shoes and used clothes, at the Port of Manila.

Deputy Customs Commissioner Rosario Imamura has ordered the filing of smuggling charges against the consignees of the articles, BSM Trading and Thompson Hardware and Lighting Center.

Imamura said Thompson misdeclared and undervalued its shipment of 2,488 pairs of boots to avoid the payment of higher duties and taxes.

The company declared the average cost of each pair of shoes at P84, way below its actual price of P5,000.

"For trying to save about P2 million in duties and taxes, Thompson now stands to lose its entire shipment with an aggregate retail value of at least P1.2 million," Imamura said in a statement.

Also seized were two containers of "shabby, shiny" or used clothing. BSM Trading allegedly misdeclared the cargo as woven fabrics with an estimated value of P8 million. Jerome Aning

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that a Special Meeting of the Shareholders (Virgin Mineral Resources, Inc. - Garnet Apollo Oil Exploration & Mineral Development Corporation Joint Venture) will be held at 2/F Tower 1 Exchange Plaza, Ayala Triangle, Ayala Avenue corner Paseo de Roxas, Makati City, at 10am, Nov 03 (Day) prior to the scheduled shareholders' meeting.

When the shareholders' meeting, the newly elected directors shall have an organizational meeting for which new officers of the Corporation will be elected. The shareholders will also take up such other matters as the sending of ballots and other communications as may be necessary in connection with the convening of the Annual Meeting of the Corporation. Also on the program for the said meeting is the approval of the minutes of the preceding meeting and the presentation of the annual report of the Corporation.

Done this 10th day of January 2011.

(Sgd.) ROSALIA V. ABAYCO
Acting Corporate Secretary

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A MILE

Hyundai caps 2010 with a sa

Hyundai Asia Resources Inc. (HARI), the official distributor of Hyundai's automobiles in the Philippines, welcomes 2011 with a most yearend victory, having sold a total of 25,172 units during 2010, following up on another historic achievement for Hyundai South Korea's largest automaker and the 5th largest in the world. Hyundai's December 2010 year-to-date sales performance is chiefly its 6% growth, making it one of the strongest brands in the market today. On a month-on-month comparison, Hyundai's December 2010 sales assertively surpassed its December 2009 record with a solid 43.08% growth, keeping its market presence as optimal advance in time for the New Year. HARI points to the strong sales of Hyundai's Passenger Car (PC) and Light Commercial Vehicle (LCV) offerings, most notably the sales of the Accent, Tucson, Sonata, Grand Starex, Elantra Coupe, Santa Fe, and i800, as core indicators of Hyundai's uniquely success in the automotive industry.

Phenomenal PC sales

Registering a +26.1% boost in term of year to date performance, Hyundai's PC sales undoubtedly constitutes a huge leap to the Korean automaker's absolute drive in winning the Filipino motorists' confidence. As for month-on-month sales, Hyundai's December 2010 PC sales rose for a huge margin from its December 2009 sales—an outstanding 80.3% growth. These gains are largely attributed to its top performers: the Accent, Getz, Elantra Coupe, and Sonata.

As the biggest success story of Hyundai in the PC category, the Accent ended 2010 with a robust 378.3% growth—an outstanding increase to 2009 annual tally. Hyundai's phenomenal compact sedan proved more aggressive in 2010, thanks to HARI's introduction of the all-new Accent, which is expected to sell more impressive this year. Based on month-on-month figures, the Accent doesn't disappoint either, as it chalked up a remarkable 165.9% growth in December 2010—nearly outperforming its December 2009 sales tally.

Not to be outdone is the Getz, which received a hefty 100.9% increase in sales based on Hyundai's year to date figures. Versus its sales in December 2009, the Getz gained stronger footing in the sales month in 2010, as it registered a lengthy 37.1% growth, while its month-to-date sales improved by 48.8% from its November sales.

Live to victory thirsty creatures, the all-new Sonata made an arresting bow in 2010 with total sales of 351 units—a stunningly impressive record considering that it was only formally introduced in the market in July last year. Boasting of Hyundai's acclaimed 2.4 liter Theta II petrol engine and a host of sophisticated features to boot, the Sonata is, without a doubt, one of Hyundai's leading automobiles, and HARI expects to roll out more Sonatas this year as the company sets out once again on its way to get the attention of more and more Filipino motorists.

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For your unwavering support and confidence in Hyundai, we, at Hyundai Asia Resources, Inc. sincerely thank you for sharing this journey with us. This 2011, we wish to cover more miles and clinch more milestones, as we drive onward with you.

HYUNDAI ASIA RESOURCES, INC.

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OPINION

Camp out

SELLING THE lots where Camp Aguinaldo and Camp Crame are located is long overdue, precisely for that reason, it should not be rushed. The Aquino administration enjoys a crucial advantage the previous administrations lost early in its unremarkable tenure: credibility. It can thus afford to take careful, calibrated steps to ensure that the twin sale—in all likelihood the biggest privatization venture of this generation—will meet the highest standards of probity, transparency and accountability while generating maximum revenue for the National Treasury.

EDITORIAL

But the lesson from the humbling, stumbling, sometimes bumbling first six months of the new administration is clear: Just because it has credibility doesn't necessarily mean the administration will conduct itself credibly. There is a need, therefore, for every single aspect of the coming sale to be studied, refined, managed so though the second Aquino administration's very legacy depended on it—because it might.

The second twin sale is not merely a multibillion-peso prospect; it is a multibillion-dollar project. Other administrations have been raised, or their otherwise clean reputations indelibly stained, by a lot less money on the table.

Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima did right in letting the public know last week that, together with other extensive properties owned by the government, the site where the two camps are based will eventually be put up for sale. Now the hard work begins. Everyone involved in this massive series of undertakings, from President Aquino on down, must each spend thousands of man-hours poring over the parameters, the plans, the proposals, the processes, to ensure that the administration will get it right.

There is no question that the properties constitute prime real estate. The site where the two camps are based could not be more central: in the middle of dynamic Quezon City, but neighboring bustling Pasig on one side and thriving San Juan on the other. Edsa, the great transit river, runs through it. It is already connected to the light rail transit network. And all together it accounts for a sprawling 233 hectares. Not all of that can be sold to private parties, because of existing conditions in the original deeds of donations, but the remaining total is still massive.

In contrast, or rather as a point of reference, the highly successful development of the Eastwood district in Quezon City, not too far behind Camp Aguinaldo, saw a dynamic hub emerge out of a "mere" 17-hectare property. Is little under a tenth of the total area that the two camps will eventually make available).

The attractiveness of the site will not be in doubt. But again a word of caution. The class not mean that the properties will sell themselves. The administration must still make the best possible case for prospective investors.

Selling off property, however, is what economists and accountants call a non-recurring item. You can sell it off only once. So the government's bottom line might look bright, if not outright brilliant, in a particular year when big-ticket items are privatized, but the shine will last only a year.

We trust that this part of the Aquino administration's privatization program will be complemented by other public-private partnership ventures that will provide the treasury with longer-revenue streams.

But assuming the final decision is reached to sell the two camps: Where will all the money go?

Since the new headquarters of the Armed Forces and the Philippine National Police will have to be relocated, and thousands of military and police families affected (those living in the camps as well as those reporting for work there), a primary beneficiary of the twin sale must be the military. To which end, it is only right. Perhaps the Department of National Defense can stay in a rehabilitated part of the present Camp Aguinaldo, maybe other units (such as the AFP Command and General Staff College) can be retained or accommodated in newer facilities; certainly memorials to the historic events of the Edsa People Power revolt of 1986 must be built anew or maintained. It seems to us, however, that the bulk of the money must be used to meet two overriding objectives: the modernization of the military, and the funding of peace and development initiatives, that in their turn will help redefine the mission of the armed services in the first decades of the 21st century.

Beating swords into plowshares means buying hammers and anvils first.

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Law prof: Gutierrez no longer Ombudsman

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

FORMER SENIO law professor Alan Paguia explained to journalists at a breakfast forum last Saturday the process of plea bargaining during which he said hoped that the plea bargain of retired Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia (alleged to have stolen P303 million in AFP money while he was its comptroller), was able to outclass prosecutors of the Office of the Ombudsman to allow him to plead guilty to the lesser offense of bribery and money laundering, in addition to returning P135 million of the loot.

In exchange, all other charges against him would be dropped, he would be allowed to keep the rest of the loot (more than half of it), and he would be allowed to post bail, the last already posted a P60,000 bail and has been freed from detention.

Paguia also said that the Sandiganbayan Division is disqualified from performing the duties of the Ombudsman because due to its hunger for the Ombudsman, for issues having existed by operation of law in 2009.

Under the Constitution, Paguia explained, the Ombudsman is given an indivisible term of seven years without reappointment. Former Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo's seven-year term was from 2002 to 2009. However, he did not complete his term, he resigned in 2008, and was succeeded by Merceditas Gutierrez, who served the remainder of his term, or from 2008 to 2009.

"The constitutional bar against an Ombudsman," Paguia said, "The never had a term of her own. So successor of Ombudsman Marcelo, Ombudsman Gutierrez stayed the same seven years term from 2008 to 2009, making a nine-year term. The first had, more or less a nonuse of three years, while the second had, more or less, a tenure of four years. The seven-year term established by the Constitution for each Ombudsman follows one after the other in a logical succession chain. To this other term would be to break the chain and violate the Constitution."

Therefore, Gutierrez cannot be considered to have a plea bargain with Garcia. And civil plea bargaining, Paguia concluded, has no legal basis in Philippine criminal law, except for purposes of academic discussion. "The merits are there, but the meaning is not," he said. ...was is not.

What is plea bargaining, in the first place?

According to Black's Law Dictionary, it is "The process whereby the accused and the prosecutor in a criminal case work out a mutually satisfactory disposition of the case subject to court approval. It usually involves the defendant pleading guilty to a lesser offense or to only one or some of the counts of a multi-count indictment in return for a lower sentence than that possible for a greater charge."

In 1995, the Prior Division of the Supreme Court ruled, "Plea bargaining in criminal cases is a process whereby the accused and the prosecution work out a mutually satisfactory disposition of the case subject to court approval. It usually involves the defendant pleading guilty to a lesser offense or to only one or some of the counts of a multi-count indictment in return for a lighter sentence than that for the graver charge. Definitely, plea bargaining is made during the open trial stage of the criminal proceedings. However, the law still permits the accused to withdraw upon timely change his plea thereafter."

Plea bargaining is authorized under Section 2, Rule 116 of the Revised Rules of Criminal Procedure.

When may the plea of guilty to a lesser offense be validly allowed by the court?

According to the Supreme Court, "only when the prosecution does not have sufficient evidence to establish the guilt of the crime charged."

May the plea of guilty to a lesser offense be considered a valid part of bargaining or compromise?

No, Paguia answers. "The plea is not supposed to be allowed as a matter of bargaining or compromise for the convenience of the accused."

If the Ombudsman has sufficient evidence to hold Major General Garcia, et al., guilty of plunder, the plea may not be allowed. But if it does not have enough evidence, the plea may be allowed.

"The court has no discretion because it is bound by the quantum of evidence on record," Paguia said. "Hence, if there is sufficient evidence to convict the accused, it would be completely unreasonable to allow the accused to bargain for a lesser penalty.

"Criminal liability, which is based on the evidence on record, is non-negotiable. It is contrary to duty, on a right, on the part of the prosecutor to obtain prejudice to the proper offense. If there is sufficient evidence, the case may be prosecuted accordingly. Otherwise, it would open the floodgates to corruption and bribery and violate public policy which requires the prosecution of all those found criminally liable."

Commission Commissioner Angelina Bonoan has ordered the rewards system for informers who would tip the bureau on smuggling activities. The reward grant ranges 10 percent of the revenue from duties that will be recovered as a result of the information he gave. Bureau also appointed a deputy commissioner as head of the anti-smuggling program supposedly assisted by BIR's The Rice Liberalization Act, which is intended to reinforce regulations on smugglers.

BIR has been effective so far. Smuggling cases have been filed against 11 groups for the period early in November to 2016.

The proceeds from these cases, according to reports, could add at least P30 billion to customs' coffers, if successfully prosecuted. Previous collections of the bureau's shipping P7.9 billion for the owners. Due to Senate chair pointing to the holes.

The P30 billion is of course the estimate. Let's see how the customs bureau and the Department of Finance will fare in the cases against the accused.

Nonetheless, these cases should serve as a deterrent to smugglers.

Still, justice

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiroz

SOMEONE ASKED me what I thought of Duterte's Congress sending a review of the Marcos acquittal.

Frankly, I'm not enthusiastic about it.

I maintain what I said the last time around that unless someone can show me that the Supreme Court was too entirely disinterested in its decision, I'm perfectly willing to give Marcos 1986's benefit of the doubt. Let's not have him acquitted by the Court. That enables him to say regarding him not just as a free man but as an innocent man. More than that, that enables him to say demanding that he can sue for damages—economic damages for the period of confinement for what he has suffered. If he is an innocent man, there is no has been a victim of injustice, languishing in jail all those years.

My worry about Bautista's "motion for reconsideration" is that it involves a matter that time has been brooding in recent years: involving the Supreme Court. That is the tendency of that Court to keep reopening cases it has ruled upon "with finality." It makes a mockery of that principle. It sets up a precedent for other reopenings. People can never really expect to have peace of mind, never mind justice, under an away. You can always have a case you've already won with the lawyer of the opposite side, pursuing it after he gets friendly with the justices or with the Chief Justice himself, appealing what ought to be an appealable.

That was what happened in a case concerning a disputed property in Bataan, which Teresita Enriquez Dayrit, a widow, claimed was against Severino Mercado. Or as she thought, with the Court saying that in ruling was "final and conclusive." Yet for reasons known only to the Court, the Mercados' lawyer, Florentino Feliciano, got it to reopen the case anyway and make it drag on.

That was what happened not in the Flight Attendants and Stewards Association of the Philippines' case against Cairo. This for the layoff of 5,000 of its members in 1998. Things ruled the reinstatement illegal and the Supreme Court agreed, ruling again with finality that SAMAHAN was entitled to backpay for the period of layoff. But then the Court reopened the case and reversed itself, saying that the backpay was not due because the airline was losing money.

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Now, that is the kind of thing that makes me wary of Congress sending a review of the Marcos acquittal.

Then when Enrigami's intervention poses, it reopens a case that ought to be shut by now.

All this sets dangerous precedents, in the very least it encourages a blind-hogging level of vanity to disqualify a case just in the hope some but in the Supreme Court itself. The Supreme Court is called supreme because it is presumed to know better than the other courts, a presumption that allows it to have the final say on things. A Supreme Court that reverses itself and makes a "mere final" ruling after its final ruling is a stupid move. It is a court that insists on saying that the lower courts, whose rulings just always be reversed by a higher one.

And that's why the decision of the Court to allow its thus it encourages a mind-boggling level of graft and corruption not just in the lower courts but in the Supreme Court itself. A Supreme Court that keeps saying "Be Well, make sure that justice is done" after issuing "Final ruling" is not just a laughable event, it is a dangerous one. A Supreme Court that reverses itself up its mind once and for all has to mind to fulfill, it has only itself to blame.

At the very least it's unfair to the litigants and defendants. Has Filipinos are not rich and can barely afford the cost of litigation. To have a case drag on all the way to the Supreme Court is bad enough, it can be pretty draining. Half the time refusal is awarded to you aren't you win a case is just enough to cover the cost of the lawyers, never mind the judges. Only the most compelling reasons can compel you to go through the process.

But to have a case that drags on forever, that is despicable. That has neglected as a country that prides itself on harboring a sense of right and wrong, never mind a democracy. The courts are more than financial, they are psychological. The Supreme Court itself ought to be mind for maintaining the integrity of the courts. Instead it confuses by reopening cases it itself has already closed. You can never find closure with the overhanging cloud of uncertainty. You can never say, "Finally, I feel vindicated." That vindication will always be tempered by that uncertainty and always in remorse. That psychological battering. The Supreme Court ought to be used for it, except that it itself will be the judge of it. That is the only time its decisions, finding itself insecure, will be final and conclusive.

Reopening the Bebb case does a couple of unsavory things further on. One is that it makes Hubert Webb however the case rules one, or however it chooses in and on, to pass the cloud of suspicion that he never had. Webb has already been lifted by the Supreme Court's decision finding him innocent. Even if he is found innocent again, nobody will believe it. He will never be pleased out of the shadow of doubt. There is no innocence restored.

This is true, it discourages. If the complexity precludes, an explanation of alternative explanations, of the dogged pursuit of a cold case. If Hubert Webb is innocent, then somebody else must be guilty and the police must be authorized to find out who it is. They owe it to James Wesley, they owe it to the people. Instead it's discussions broadly suppose, no proposals, that there is no other explanation, there is no other way to do it, more merely despite the absence of irregularities—at least not one has been pointed out—a thunderrage of names. There will quite literally be no end to this. Some things ought to be final. Final and necessary implies one or other.

That is the difference between prosecution and persecution.

The calls for review

THE CALLS for review of the Webb case will not die until the Supreme Court has made a definitive decision that the Webb case is a closed case or, at minimum, that the seven justices who voted to reverse the conviction of Webb and company committed a grave abuse of discretion amounting to lack or excess of jurisdiction. In the second alternative the Supreme Court will have to say that while the seven justices did wrong they are incapable at all. But what are the chances of either alternative?

From where I sit, the odds would be heavily tilted in favor of dismissal of any appeal or any motion for reconsideration. As our colleague put it, this is Constitutional Law 101. The long-standing doctrine is that "No error, however flagrant, committed by the trial court against the state, can be reserved for a for decision by the Supreme Court when the defendants has once been placed in jeopardy and discharged even though the discharge was the result of the error committed." A judgment in a criminal case once final cannot be reopened. A judgment of acquittal is immediately final. "A single prosecution for any offense is all the law allows. It protects an accused from harassment, enables him to treat what had characterized as a closed chapter in his life, either to rest in tranquility or to be energized to whatever priority it imposed, and it is his to unreservedly litigation, in itself time-consuming and expense-producing for the state as well."

But is there any instance when an acquittal is reversed? Yes, when the acquittal was no acquittal at all because it was done with abuse of discretion. For the abuse that can justify reversal is not any simple abuse. This type of abuse has been characterized by the Supreme Court as "such capriciousness and whimsical exercise of judgment as is equivalent to lack of jurisdiction." The abuse of discretion must be patent and gross as to amount to an evasion of positive duty or a virtual refusal to perform a duty required by law, or to act in contemplation of law, as where the power is exercised in an arbitrary and despotic manner by reason of passion or hostility."

If the Supreme Court is to reverse the acquittal of Webb and company it will have to say that the seven justices who voted for acquittal had acted in a manner that was capricious and in a whimsical exercise of judgment, had conducted public hearings or received supposedly confidential briefings but had exercised their power in an arbitrary and despotic manner by reason of passion or hostility. It is only by arriving at this conclusion that the Supreme Court can say that the acquittal was without jurisdiction and therefore not to acquittal at all.

What are the chances of the Supreme Court arriving at such a conclusion? Consider the fact that every decision of the Court is penned to only after deliberations sequential in the Court. A corollary rule is that effort is attached to the record of the case. Moreover, any member who dissents must state the reason for the dissent. If you examine what those who dissented and, I do not think you will find any dissenting justice saying that majority the Webb acquittal amounts to grave abuse of discretion amounting to lack or excess of jurisdiction of the Supreme Court. If such were the case, the justices would be opening themselves to the punishment for culpable violation of the Constitution and betrayal of public trust.

Indeed, there have been acquittals which were found to be grave abuse of discretion amounting to lack of jurisdiction. But these were committed by lower courts, for instance, those who the case of the soldiers accused of the assassination of Senator Ninoy Aquino. The decision was acquitted by the Sandiganbayan the case was reopened on the premise that the proceedings at the Sandiganbayan were characterized by grave abuse of discretion.

Incidentally, the arguments has been raised that the Webb decision does not have precedent that the Supreme Court is without authority to decide to case of law. In essence, what this argument means is that the Supreme Court had no jurisdiction. Clearly, however, the Constitution gives to the Supreme Court power to review, reverse, modify or affirm on appeal or certiorari. Here specifically, the Supreme Court has the power to review "all criminal cases in which the penalty imposed is reclusion perpetua or higher." Reviewing a criminal case on appeal or certiorari necessarily implies the power and authority to review a review not just of the law involved but also of the facts which are the basis of the conviction or acquittal.

Reviewing a criminal law decision always involves examining whether the right to presumption of innocence has been honored. To convict, the court must find proof beyond reasonable doubt. Proof beyond reasonable doubt cannot be determined without reviewing the facts of the case.

SOUNDING BOARD

Fr. Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J.

Is there any instance when an acquittal is reversed? Yes, when the acquittal was no acquittal at all because it was done with abuse of discretion

Monthly pension for some senior citizens

REVEILLE

Ramon J. Farolan

A death sentence for 2011

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Antonio J. Montalvan II

Poverty not a hindrance to success

HIGH BLOOD

Manuel V. Gonzales

Outing a crooked Ombudsman

LIKE MANY people I welcome the new year very much hope and passion. As I did last year which gave us simple opportunities on effective change, I look forward to this time of the Nabbit to provide us with more avenues and possibilities to bring to fruition our dauntless meaningful reforms.

However, several old and bad habits perilous enemies to God-given us. One of these is the corrupt Ombudsman, notorious for his unexplained cattle-panel enemies in prosecuting corrupt public officials and dispensing justice.

Proof of this is her inexcusable delay in monitoring and conducting the investigation into the death of Philippine Navy Ensign Philip Andrew Pestaño on Sept. 27, 2006. After five years, the Ombudsman's chief prosecutor, Dennis Villa-Ignacio, ruling "lack of evidence," even though a 2007 Senate investigation concluded that the Navy ensign was murdered. The Ombudsman's decision was promulgated in June 2009, but it was reversed by the Pestaño family only in July 2010.

This turtle-paced behavior can also be seen in the low conviction rate that has resulted in the short disposition, if not out-and-out denial, of justice. A Washington-based expert charged that the Ombudsman has nearly nine out of every 10 cases it filed in the first four months of 2010. It also said the Ombudsman scored eight convictions in 62 cases disposed of by the Sandiganbayan from January to April 2010, for a conviction rate of 12.9 percent.

Yes, while her office is sluggish in its performance to end government of erring individuals, it is more of prompt in protect the obviously corrupt. We are all witnesses to how the Ombudsman was used to obstruct initiatives to make Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, her family and cronies accountable for their conspiracies against the people. Take the case of retired Brig. Gen. Carlos Cadiz, a Known Arroyo ally accused of plunder, who was recently offered by the Ombudsman a lopsided plea bargain deal grossly disadvantageous to government.

This must not go on any further. A crooked Ombudsman has no place in the true of the Nabbit. The rabbit represents quickness, energy and enthusiasm. In contrast, the current Ombudsman is notorious for slow and sluggish, incompetence and seriousness.

She and her protectors might say that the early years the race against the rabbit is a well-known fable; but now I remind them that the earlier was because of hard work and perseverance. Sadly, based on her own track record, the Ombudsman is certainly lacks those values.

Indeed, as we welcome the new year, I require the public to renew our initiative to demise the government of people who serve as obstacles to reforms and change. Likewise, I hope the Aquino administration will remain steadfast in meeting the challenge of removing the incumbent Ombudsman from public service and in reforming the Office of the Ombudsman.

That your wishes are the opposition of a new Ombudsman.

—KIRA BONTEVERDE,
spokesperson,
Akbayan Party
31-E Rizalvilla St.,
Tikatoro Village,
Quezon City

LETTERS

An umbrella held by a Chief Justice

THERE is a reason for why in the latest decision handed down by the Supreme Court declaring Presidente Aquino's Executive Order 1 unconstitutional.

This decision has hinted up not 'relied' that the nine concerned justices knows justice and their chief were placed in the Supreme Court to serve and defend the interests of their benefactress Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, not this country's Constitution or interests. The 10 (see-count) of 15 magistrates have proved our lingering suspicion that they will stand as GMA's frontline defenders against any attempt by the administration of President Aquino (who won the last election on an anti-corruption platform) to make accountable those behind the humongous corruption scandals during GMA's nine-year reign.

What made it easy for the Supreme Court to reach the decision was the forgiven and utter lack of intellectual brilliance of the lawyers who advise the Presidente. They are legal lightweights and Senators Joker Arroyo and Miriam Defensor Santiago could not be drafted for urging so. The legal issues were not complex enough to stump their brilliant minds, the most brain of brave debate there will be for the Aquino administration to step as the hands of the GMA-anointed justices who do not believe in the independence of their benefactress quickly.

Chief Justice Renato Corona may not be literally holding secondhands to shield GMA from people power justice, but he is the one who sent Tanjuan Fernando did for Hands Marcos, the media he and his nine servile followers will protect her from any suit that will be filed in any court in the country.

—ROMON BAUTISTA,
romonjapan@aol.com

Thanks and a question to the new GSIS chief

AFTER MANY years, a Christmas bonus (or was it a cash gift?) was credited to the accounts of GSIS pensioners on Dec. 15, 2010, as GSIS president Robert E. Vergara announced in his interview on "Serbisyo! GSIS Handa Ka" starring "operating spoons-turned" (Dec. 11/20/10) (www.gsis.gov.ph/news.asp?id=1). Or is it the "Christmas gratuity for GSIS pensioners." (Inquirer, 12/16/10).

I cannot understand why former GSIS head Winston F. Garcia (Inquirer, 11/27/10) — *who in one did in the week of survey University days, if it is true that the scrapped Christmas bonus or cash gift of surviving spouses has been restored, then many years of being discriminated against, starting with the pensioners' deaths* — disappeared from the scene in an end. Yet GSIS pensioners there is a real change in government as promised by President Aquino during the election campaign.

But why did Mr. Vergara's letter state that "surviving spouses still employed or receiving other benefits or pensions from government agencies are staunchly unreviewable pensions," unless what was scrapped was the cash gift or bonus they were receiving before?

As any case, many thanks to Mr. Vergara for a job well done and the Inquirer for helping the surviving spouses of their government. To them we say: Rest assured we will cherish your kind gesture until time shall be no more.

—GUMERSINDO D. PEYELA,
Honorary Commodorepan,
Dam, Camarines Norte 4600

Did the Inquirer lie in its editor's reply?

I DOUBT the Inquirer's honesty in its reply to Alfredo Cudmaid's letter to the editor last Jan. 17 ("Decided stance of the Pope's remarks [regarding condoms]"). the Inquirer does not protect any agenda."

Really now. Do on the editorial of that same Inquirer issue ("Protecting human"), and you'll see that the newspaper's editors seemingly lied to Lahoma and the rest of their readers. Among the many noteworthy things in the editorial is its stern against pro-life advocate Eric Manaloto and his follower Deborah Sabio-cruz (also as the entry pro-life freak). Another in the editorial's "one-sided sourcing" of opinion spoon left were fresh chameleon whom the editorial frames as "liberalize" dissidents in the Church). But some noteworthy to the editorial's insistence that Pope Benedict XVI has a "manic shift in his thinking" and that the Church is "sweating ... rigid doctrine."

Indeed, but we let the Inquirer's agenda to discredit the Catholic Church and its leader. I mean, it only takes a little bit of "investigative" journalism skills (and some common sense) to find out the consistency of the Pope's remarks with the Catechism of the Catholic Church and other church documents; you'll find no "manic shift" or "doctrinal sweating" in all.

Thus, I wish it's high time for the media such as "examinator of conscience" and become aware with itself and its readers. First of all, it has to recognize what communications scholars have long ago discovered: that the media necessarily are an agenda, telling its readers what issues to think about, and, through tactics called "framing" and "priming," how to think about those issues.

Second, the Inquirer should challenge itself to be vigilant outside biased reportage by some "international news organizations with solid reputation." It shouldn't just report the Pope's remarks but for the rank and unfair judgments of their Islamic-socialistic "big members," instead, the Inquirer should live up to its name: it should inquire diametrically and rigorously until it arrives at the truth, or the least approximate to first-reasonable foreign media as possible.

And third, the Inquirer should roll the mark to all its readers—from those who have the capability to buy and thoroughly read a copy of its newspaper, to those who cannot afford it and constantly glance at newspapers's banner headlines at the newsstand. None of the inquirer's contentious sensational headlines should mislead or misinform—among conclusion and even misleading some — as did Inquirer on the Pope's remarks on condoms.

—BENJAMIN TABIOS,
Department of Communication Research,
UP College of Mass Communication

It is a point of pride for the Inquirer that its Opinion pages are independent of the Main dailies. The paper's views reject big dailies not in fact promote any agenda, but its editorials, natural. It, take a stand. It's a pity that someone affiliated with the UP CMC does not understand this basic, and liberating, distinction. —Eds.

HOPPY New Year!

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TAKEOFF Talbala prepares himself for takeoff on a two-seat light plane for a first time flying experience.

39 special kids reach for the sky

From page A1

Where Nikko Talbala, Jeremy Lapeña, Carol Ines and other children with disabilities and ailments joined the "Reach for the Sky" event at the airfield of the Angeles City Flying Club (ACFC) here on Saturday more than 30 photographers were on hand to capture their joy, excitement and fear.

The children and teens in ranks in groups of three for helicopters of the Philippine Air Force and the Philippine Navy or took turns riding with pilots on 12 two-seat light planes. They spent 10 to 20 minutes up in the air and were allowed to take the planes and helicopters more than once.

Talbala, who lost his right leg in bone cancer last August, looked tense when he took his seat on a light plane.

"Eh, para sa sinemas of the Batman film," Boy Cuevarra said before his 14-year-old passenger, donning two dog tags on his neck, put on the audio system and buckled his crutches to his seatbelt.

By 10:20 a.m., the plane took off, giving Talbala what he called a "once-in-a-lifetime experience."

"I'm happy. The flight made me happy. God bless! Because they gave us this experience," said Talbala, who wants to be a policeman.

This feeling of being touched, said John Chua, founder of Photography With a Difference (PWD), was what his group's project, "Reach for the Sky," was all about. Chua, 63, has been doing advertising photography over the past 40 years.

"Our photographer can make a difference and many photographers can do a lot of difference," Chua told the Inquirer.

He was referring to his encounter in 2008 with Ian, a young man with autism. Instead of just helping the mother and his bond at Manila Zoo and giving her advice through photographs of her son, Chua taught his parent mid-class photography.

Unique perspective

He proclaimed what Chua called "pioneers with unique perspectives."

Talbala's mother, Teresita, said the event also helped her son cope with the sadness of losing his leg.

Jeremy Lapeña, 14, outspoken with Down Syndrome, was both excited and afraid. But he never asked Jay Cook, a retired lieutenant bush pilot, to put the light sport aircraft down.

The pilot's owner, Bernard Cuevarra, gave the free flight because it was for a cause. "All the flying expenses comes on the knee of the children," Cuevarra said.

Ecstatic

"He recovers for fast and look at him, he's ecstatic," said Canada's mother. Aquino, in fact, he also rode the Philippine Air Force chopper.

"This is learning for him," she said, adding she was not afraid for her son because "we want him to experience all the possibilities."

Terry Hackenbull, president of the ACFC, said the 15-year-old club has finally become "It's the right thing to do."

Clouds as gift

JC Lee, Jr, who is blind, jumped around as he waited for his turn and blurted loud: "Cinquenta lang pasahodong ang cloud (I'll bring clouds to my homecoming gift)."

The whole day affair saw Ginny Hamato, a 12-year-old boy with autism, helping paint a mural after the flight. Fun activities, games and picnics followed.

From late in 2008 to a similar but small event, called "Dream Flight," in 2010, the PWD adventure for the well-being and acceptance of special children and youth has grown.

Support

The event started with the support of the Philippine Navy and the Ryder Foundation last year, but this year's event also drew support from Canon Marketing Philippines and SM Cares, the corporate social responsibility arm of SM Supermalls.

Aside from Ryder Foundation, the beneficiary organizations were include the Philippine Society for Orphan Disorders Inc., Institute for Philippines, Parents Council for the Welfare of Hearing Impaired Children Inc., Down Syndrome Association of the Philippines Inc., ADHD Society of the Philippines, and Parent Advocates for Visually Impaired Children Inc.

Photo exhibit

Photographs taken from the event will be exhibited at SM malls, said Dave Mares, SM Supermalls vice president for mall operations and program director for SM Cares program for persons with disabilities.

"We want the exhibits to help change attitude toward PWDs and special kids and youth," Mares said.

Chua said he was amazed by how he got organizations and people on the advocacy through the social networking site Facebook.

He initiated similar events in Singapore and Indonesia last year and is set to do Reach for the Sky next month in the United States with Filipino photographers.

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LINE TO FAITH Devotees pull the rope of the Black Nazarene carriage during the procession.

MEDICAL EMERGENCY A man who fainted is carried to a medical station for first aid treatment.

Millions escort Black Nazarene

From page A1

their way through the streets to bring the icon to the Minore Basilica of the Black Nazarene in Quiapo, an honor for 404 years.

Director Nicanor Bartolome, National Capital Region Police Office chief, was more generous, like estimated the number of devotees who attended the Mass and lined the 5-km procession route at 7 million to 7.5 million.

Asked how he arrived at the figure, Bartolome said: "It is of devotees inside their way to Manila from the province — but we do not have an estimate as to how many people came from the provinces. The provinces were lined with throngs of devotees, the streets packed with people."

Supt. Junnex Abella, Sta. Cruz police station commander, put the crowd manned outside Quiapo Church before the procession arrived at 600,000.

Antonio Tuberculosis estimated the crowds at 3 million.

Feast casualties

As of 8 p.m., as the march neared the church, the Philippine Red Cross said it had treated 579 people who suffered minor injuries, such as cuts and fractures, and other discomforts, like dizzy spells or high blood pressure.

Unlike last year when one devotee died of a heart attack, there were no fatalities this time.

The procession was expected to end at the doors of Quiapo Church at between 11 p.m. and midnight, police said.

"They'll first [the crowds] disband while waving white basy towels and handkerchiefs in rapid circular motions, a spectacular scene that appeared, from a distance, like a thousand fluttering doves in a sea of humanity.

"I know in my heart God will make a way for my daughter to survive her ordeal. He will make a miracle for us," prayed driver Nestor dela Fuente said, his voice breaking.

Despite his sadness, the 61-year-old swiftness appeared himself through a thick crowd to hear the lively Mass being shown on a giant screen outside Quiapo Church.

Dela Fuente said he had been attending the procession since his teenage daughter was afflicted with a deadly respiratory disease five years ago. He could not give the specific cause of the malady.

Be like Christ

The feast commemorates the first procession to transfer the Black Nazarene from a church in Intramuros to the minor basilica in Quiapo on Jan. 9, 1787.

In his homily at Quiricio Antolin said, Archbishop Cardinal Rosales stressed that the life and the suffering of the Black Nazarene were relevant to Filipinos. Drawing parallels between the Christ who was raised simply in Nazareth and Jesus who was also raised both were patient and compassionate.

"Let us try harder to emulate Him, who had a simple life and livelihood, simple ambitions and desires," Rosales exhorted.

He reminded the devotees that even if they were far away from the icon, Christ was listening to their prayers.

"Distance is nothing to God ... It is the people who distance themselves, but if you call on God, he will listen to you no matter how far away you are," the cardinal said.

Only the head of the image paraded yesterday was not part of the original statue carved in Mexico, said Msgr. Jose Clemente Ignacio, rector of the minor basilica in Quiapo. The genuine head of the image has been placed on a replica of the body enshrined within the altar of the basilica.

The head and the body had to be split "because people joining the procession wanted to touch the original image while others visiting the basilica also want the original," Ignacio said.

Ignacio, however, says unscheduled by the high turnout. "It means that the Catholic population is growing and the people's faith is also growing," Ignacio said.

Mostly poor

In an interview, Rosales observed that majority of the devotees were "poor, ordinary Filipinos."

"Every year, the number of devotees are growing because they see themselves in the image of the suffering and struggling Black Nazarene," he said.

Partner Vice President Nelson Gastro, probably the most well known devotee of the Black Nazarene, was seen attending the Mass in Quiapo before noon.

Dormitorio earlier failed to get a glimpse of him got to talk with "another" kalipunan—Rosales quipped in reference to Senator Manuel Villar. The star paraded every Jan. 9 has the head of the replica and the body of the original, encased in stainless steel to prevent it from damage.

Miraculous powers

Devotees have attributed miracles to the Black Nazarene—banning those in the reported cheering win of a alleged survey of a radio operator in his car. She reportedly happened after he prayed to the Black Nazarene on being told he had to undergo a lengthy operative bypass surgery.

In 2009, police estimated that up to 1 million people joined the procession, or triple the turnout of the previous years. About 200 devotees were also reported to have suffered injuries in the procession.

On the same year, authorities collected the biggest volume of trash after the feast—19 truckloads measuring 228 tons of plastic bottles, styrofoam containers, candy and food wrappers.

Last year, police estimated up to 2 million took part in the 5.8-kilometer procession lined the streets to see the icon.

One male devotee died last year—a 43-year-old electrician who reportedly collapsed beside the main carriage. Over 600 people were rushed to hospitals and first aid stations. Most of those had fainted from hunger and exhaustion, while others sustained foot injuries.

Inquirer Research

IN THE KNOW

THE PROCESSION of the Black Nazarene is a commemoration of the wooden statue's transfer from a Recollect church in Intramuros, Manila, where it was first enshrined, to San Juan de Bautista (now Minor Basilica of the Black Nazarene) in Quiapo, Manila, on Jan. 9, 1787.

The original statue, which shows Christ bent under the weight of a heavy cross, was made by an unknown Mexican sculptor and brought to Manila by a Recollect priest in 1607.

The image arrived from Mexico on board a ship that had caught fire. It did not suffer charred, but the Mexican sculptor was unscathed.

Believed to be miraculous, the Black Nazarene came to be more famous than Quiapo's patron saint.

The Black Nazarene survived fires that engulfed the Quiapo Church in 1791 and 1929, the great earthquakes of 1645 and 1863, and the 1945 bombing of Manila during World War II.

Grant of indulgences

Devotion to the Black Nazarene was encouraged by Pope Innocent IX, who issued a papal bull establishing Confraternity de Jesus Nazareno in 1604.

In the 19th century, Pope Pius VII granted indulgence to people who prayed devoutly to the Black Nazarene.

There are two images of the Black Nazarene in Quiapo, both hybrids of the original and the replica created by Fr. Blancagan, a devotee who looks like Jesus Christ.

A robed Martine officer, Capt. Nicanor Bautista, who was returned from detention the other day, said he also attended the feast in "thanksgiving." (For related story see *Page A3*.)

Barefoot devotees

Soaked by rain and sweat, many clambered over heads and shoulders in a frantic attempt to touch the Black Nazarene icon.

Some of the devotees carriages bearing smaller replicas of the Black Nazarene. Some religious clergymen were ahead of or raised the main carriage.

Barefoot devotees dressed in the devotional colors of maroon and yellow, some carrying the Nazarene's carriage, pulling and tugging at the carriage ropes. They pushed, pulled and shoved those in the way as they plodded on.

"I will keep doing this while I still have the strength, like my father did when he was still alive," said the 60-year old Josefina Quintero.

When the procession reached Palanca Street, the scene turned chaotic, as wide swaths of men coalesced by the thick ropes were swept, lurch and heels, in a dangerous human tide.

"I just lost consciousness in the middle of it," said food vendor Jhun Alquiler, who had to be forcibly carried out of the crush.

He said this was his third year of joining the procession. "I'm here because I want to ask for forgiveness for all my sins," he said.

Less risky paths

Many in the crowd took less risky paths, content with flinging their towels and handkerchiefs to the nazarene, who rubbed them on the cross and wave their hand. The devotees quickly kissed the pieces of cloth and relieved a prayer.

Those who had fainted were carried on stretchers and taken to ambulances. Some relatives to their feet from fainting, barefoot along the procession.

As the procession went on, the crowd continued to swell, like a single organism that kept amassing and breathing up in parts.

Joyful faces

The procession showed varying faces of the Filipino faithful, from the pious to the cheerful, alternately serious and indifferent, solemn and joyful.

On Mandalfan Bridge, a vantage boy in a crew cut and cloudy sweatshirt, "Mailing myself" as though addressing studio audience of the talent show "Showtime." The jokedrew chuckles and shakes of head.

But the mood abruptly changed as the Black Nazarene approached. Thunderous applause rang out, as the spectators cheered and waved, and firecrackers were lit in celebration.

People standing on the sidewalks, as well as those watching from the windows of buildings, clutched lit candles as the carriage approached.

Everywhere, vendors hawked food, drinks and other merchandise, such as "Good Morning towels" with images of the Christ, and necklaces with the cross. Some even tried to sell balloons shaped as nazarenes and rosaries. He flees the Filipinos.

As the carriage of the Black Nazarene made slow progress on its way to Quiapo Church, Allan Alano, 32, was slumped on the side of a building, thoroughly exhausted. He had suffered cramps.

Among the crowd were two New Zealand backpackers who seemed to get a taste of what a real religious festival was all about.

"We were lucky enough to catch the Black Nazarene as it passed over Jones bridge," said 20-year old Fiona Mcalaster.

Asked if they believed in the healing powers of the Nazarene, her companion, 20-year old Jon Connell said, "I'm think that the many people have come to gather to see a name suggests that there is a higher power at work. You can't help but get caught up in it."

Church officials cautioned against taking devotion to the statue to extremes.

"The devotion we give to this statue should be properly understood. This does not have special powers, it's just a representation of Jesus," Basilique Incognetas Inigue Jr. said on radio. "When you believe it has special powers per se, that is when it becomes superstition."

With reports from Mike Marohn, Tonia Z. Pamintuan, Jocelyn R. Uy, trainee Stacey Moseley and AFP

Women devotees join mad frenzy for flowers

From page A1

the mad clash of devotees for the flowers that bedeck the carnivals-old image before it is paraded through the streets of Manila.

"I was able to get one now," she told the inquirer as she sat on a bench at Quirino Grand stand, watching a horde of other devotees elbowing their way to the stage to kiss or touch the statue of Christ as it was transferred to a carriage for the grueling procession.

The culprits she were were the same as those of the veneration of the Black Christ she worships.

Tindao was not content with merely bringing home a keepsake from the Black Nazarene. She later joined the thousand crowd trying to mount the carriage to kiss the image.

Mother, son

Earlier, authorities concerned about the safety of the devotees urged women not to join the traditionally male-dominated procession. To avoid the crush, the women were allowed from Saturday night till morning to go near the icon and kiss it.

Most of the women at the festivities did not pass up the chance to climb the carriage and wipe the statue with their white handkerchiefs.

A devotee for 17 years, Tindao said she always joined the feast to thank the Black Nazarene for saving her and the son she was carrying in her womb in 1994, from a very dangerous childbirth.

"I asked the Black Nazarene during that difficult moment to save me and my baby. In return, I promised to make a devotion to Him," she said.

Quizon's prayers

There was also no stopping Comedian Quizon from mounting the carriage to reach the statue.

Quizon, who belonged in a group of devotees from Tondo, called the "Hanonanos," said she came to pray for the healing of her 7-year-old son, who is afflicted with hernia, and to ask for blessings for her family. She lived every day.

Quizon pulled through the mob and, for the briefest of seconds, clung to the foot of the cross on the Black Nazarene's shoulder before inevitable tension her away like lint and disappeared into the sea of humanity.

Tindao and Quizon were among the over one million people estimated by the police to have attended the Mass officiated by Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales at dawn at the grandstand prior to the procession.

A good example

In his homily, Rosales called on Filipinos to live by the examples of Christ. Like Christ, Filipinos are also faithful and loving by nature.

The cardinal also said that Asians are alike but blessings and helped his father, Joseph, in his carpentry shop "by picking up sawdust and scraps." To this challenged the multitudes to do the same by collecting the trash littering the grandstand.

"This is a good example of Christ ... I hope that we would all be inspired in picking up the trash around us and making sure that we leave Luneta clean," Rosales said.

Some did as told but others left their garbage behind.

'Fireworks of fanaticism'

Before the Mass ended, footage of devotees pushed their way into a screened area of the grandstand so they could be closer to the carriage.

Devotees touched or wiped the carriage with their hand towels even before the Black Nazarene's image was placed on it. Others jumped onto the carriage and hung onto the cross before pleasanting back into the mob.

Some tried to take home a piece of a tarpaulin forming a backdrop to the icon—an act which Msgr. Jose Clemente Ignacio, rector of the Minor Basilica of the Black Nazarene, said the Church did not condone.

"There are elements of fanaticism that we have to correct and to control," Ignacio told reporters.

He said he always reminded the devotees that even if they were not able to touch the image, the presence of Christ "is always in the Eucharist ... that the procession is just an outflow of the [Mass]."

But if we are understandable **that people would** try so touch the Black Nazarene's image.

"One culture is very Oriental or Asian ... Even in the Bible, **there were many people** crowding around Jesus and some would just touch His clothes and they were healed," he said.

Gin Kings still alive, get back at Beermen

By Manny R. Castillo

SUBURBAN: A hot start, Barangay Ginebra gave all it had in a game it couldn't afford to lose and Mera San Miguel Beer all the more, 95-78, to end the Governor's PBA Philippine Cup semifinal series final to 1-2 at the Araneta Coliseum.

The Gin Kings opened up a 23-point lead in the second quarter before throwing several San Miguel comebacks to finally wrest momentum for keeping into Wednesday's crucial fourth game.

Ginebra also won against San Miguel for just the first time in five meetings this season while evening a 6-5 hole, where no team in league history has survived in a best-of-seven series.

"This was a very important game because a would have been hard to fall behind 0-3," Ginebra coach Jong Uichico told reporters.

"Hopefully we can take care of things on Wednesday."

Rudy Hatfield again proved a big offensive factor, hitting a layup with 5:27 left in the second quarter that opened up a 46-23 lead for the crowd favorites.

After shooting 20 points in a 106-103 Game 2 loss and coming into the game missing all his six three-point attempts for the tournament, Hatfield made his first two and finished with 16 points and nine rebounds.

ROUGH Tip of B-Meg Derrick Ahs blocks Ramidol Ebonilla of Talk 'N Text in last night's first game at the Big Dome.

Willie Miller scored 19 points and Mark Caguioa had 17 and a team-high 12 rebounds.

"Our backs were against the wall and we realized what we needed to do for the rest of the series," said Uichico. "We have a shot at it again. It's a hard climb, but at least we have that shot at climbing back up."

No-told were the Beermen that the 11 points each of Jay Washington and Dondon Hontiveros paced the team in scoring. The duo hit 29 each in Game 2.

"Give credit to Ginebra," San Miguel's Ato Agustin said. "They (Kings) prepared really hard and they were very aggressive all game. We started out that and couldn't get anything going no matter what we did."

San Miguel opened the third period with a 14-5 run and came within 46-46.

But Hatfield downed the rally with his explosive night, 46-32.

Though Arwind Santos hit a triple to close out the third with San Miguel behind by just 11, 61-71, the Beermen came no closer than 14 points the rest of the way.

Ginebra is hoping to duplicate a 4-0 comeback in the 2006 edition of this tournament.

The winner of this series will advance to a championship playoff against the winner of the best-of-seven Talk 'N Text matchup which also defending champion Ginebra led at 2-2 after a 98-90 victory earlier in the night. (See Alaska game 1 story.)

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Military frees last mutinous officer

From page A1

February 2006 standoff and the Peninsula Manila siege.

Baldivia first escaped on Dec. 14, 2005, but was captured shortly on Jan. 27, 2006.

While attending a rebellion trial at the Makati Regional Trial Court, Baldivia joined a walkout by accused mutineers led by Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV, a former Navy lieutenant, and former Army brigadier, Danilo Lim. They then proceeded to take over Peninsula Manila.

Baldivia escaped after the Army sent an armored personnel carrier to crash into the lobby of the hotel and troops to pin down the uprising.

"I started doing the pilgrimage in 2000, but it was only now that I got to climb [on the float]," he said to Filipinos in a text message after attending the procession.

Touching the icon

Baldivia joined the Black Nazarene procession again in 2009 and 2010 where he could easily get lost among the throngs of devotees scrambling to get as near as possible to the float carrying the miraculous icon.

It was on his fourth year that after parting with the crowds, he got to touch the icon.

"Yes, I was barefoot and I was able to climb [into the float] by the grace of God," he added in Filipino.

Under the terms of his custodial release, Baldivia has to report back for hearings before a military court. Otherwise, he is free to go wherever he wants.

Baldivia said he had not yet decided whether to apply for amnesty offered by Mr. Aquino.

Should he apply for amnesty, Baldivia can get his military retirement benefits, but he can no longer return to the service.

GRANDSTAND CROWD Thousands of devotees join the Black Nazarene procession at Quirino Grandstand in Rizal Park.

Black Nazarene procession leaves tons of trash

By Jayvee T. Ganal

ENVIROWOMEN, group EcoWaste Coalition lamented the "trashing of Luneta" during the Feast of the Black Nazarene on Sunday.

Thousands of devotees attended a morning Mass held at Quirino Grandstand, preceding the annual procession of the Black Nazarene image from Rizal Park to Quiapo Church.

But in the wake of the procession, Quirino Grandstand and Rizal Park were left awash with food leftovers and wrappers, used food and beverage containers, plastic bottles and bags, soiled carton and newspapers, empty cans and even used disposable diapers, EcoWaste Coalition said in a statement.

The group estimated that the scattered discards could easily fill up 200 to 250 garbage bags. Calls made by ecology groups, the Church and the local government since Monday, appealing for devotees to pick up their own trash, went apparently left unheeded.

"Let's get real. Our prayerful devotion to the Black Nazarene should be complemented with the highest respect for God's creation and not by dropping litter anywhere," said EcoWaste Coalition president Roy Alvarez.

The National Parks Development Committee (NPDC) has started to clean up the park.

"We have prepared for it and we have deployed our sweepers, but we reiterate our call to all park goers to have discipline, especially when disposing of garbage," said NPDC media information bureau chief Kenneth Montegrande.

The EcoWaste Coalition expressed gratitude to scavengers in the park, who collected recyclable trash as the procession got started.

A scavenger could earn from P300 to P2,000 from the discarded recyclable items, said Manny Calonzo of the EcoWaste Coalition Recycle Brigade.

Quoting the scavengers, he said polyethylene (PET) bottles would sell for P22-P32 a kilo; plastic cups, noodle containers and covers, P15 a kilo; plastic cutlery, P15 a kilo; tin cans, 5% a kilo; and coarse boxes, P5 a kilo.

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From chief troubleshooter to 'water boy' of President

From page A1

the one-year ban on defeated candidates getting government posts shall have expired on June 30.

"I will not be disposing him as yet/too to so many aspects," Mr. Aquino told reporters at a news conference following the traditional 'stir' of honour' to usher in the new year to Malacañang.

The President said Roxas "might be one of the chief troubleshooters. If something needs more interest attention I might task him to do that if he's willing."

Roxas is a former investment banker who served twice as trade secretary—under the Estrada and Arroyo administrations—before becoming a senator and Mr. Aquino's vice presidential candidate in the May 2010 elections.

Roxas indicated their nothing had been finalized yet on his possible positions in Malacañang. But he said that he was willing to help the President ensure that government programs would be successful.

"I'll help the President the best I can," he said. Mr. Aquino and Roxas are members of the Liberal Party of which the latter is the party-chief.

'Household'

For now, Roxas said he was just a "household." "He's reserved to ABS-CBN news anchor Korina Sanchez.

Roxas has been seen attending some gatherings with the President in and out of Malacañang.

In September last year, Roxas was part of the official delegation when Mr. Aquino visited the United States and met with American businessmen to draw investments into the Philippines.

A source said Mr. Aquino had on occasions asked Roxas to look into and research some issues for him.

Ochoa to keep post

There was talk that Roxas might be named executive secretary, currently held by Paquito Ochoa, or even interior secretary or foreign secretary.

But Mr. Aquino said he would keep Ochoa as his executive secretary.

"I am not contemplating on replacing on Ochoa," he told the reporters in a text message yesterday when asked if he was going to replace the former with Roxas.

"I am happy with the ES," the President said, referring to his current executive secretary.

He made the statement despite Malacañang's recent setbacks in the Supreme Court, including the executive's order creating a Truth Commission that would investigate the cases of corruption under the Arroyo administration.

The tribunal said the creation of the commission was unconstitutional.

Minor revamp

Mr. Aquino said there would be a minor revamp early this year involving one or two Cabinet secretaries and a few sub-Cabinet positions.

Last month, Malacañang announced that a revamp of the Cabinet would happen in January.

"Can I just announce it when it's finally done? We're still talking to some other people," the President said when asked who among his departments' secretaries were on the way out.

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The UPM-PGH Faculty Medical Arts Building Project

The lease, conversion and development by a private developer of the PGH Dispensary Building as the UPM-PGH Faculty Medical Arts Building (FMAB) was approved by the UP Board of Regents (BOR), the highest policy-making body of the University of the Philippines, during its 1093rd and 1201st meetings on December 15, 1995 and September 20, 2005, respectively.

The FMAB forms part of a faculty incentive and retention package where affordable office/clinic spaces are provided to UP Manila faculty members, a majority of whom are affiliated physicians with the College of Medicine and the Philippine General Hospital. With its modern and advanced diagnostic capabilities, FMAB will complement the existing services and facilities offered by PGH. Furthermore, the institutionalization of the out-patient practice of PGH doctors at FMAB will provide the client base that will be the source of additional patronage for PGH's pay wards and specialized units.

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After three years of bidding and negotiations, the contract for the FMAB Project was signed on June 16, 2009, the 101st foundation of the University, by UP President Emerlinda Roman and DMMC President Dr. Edwin Mercado, and subsequently confirmed by the BOR on October 22, 2009.

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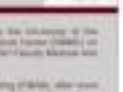

Assistant Editor Tony Gerochi

Across the NATION

Flooded E. Samar towns need help

TACLOBAN CITY—Officials from Maslog and Arapapad towns, both in Eastern Samar, are calling for assistance as flood waters reaching as deep as 12 feet have isolated their towns from the rest of the province, stranding hundreds of families.

Arapapad Mayor Delia Manlosa said in a phone interview on Sunday that all the 11 barangays in her town were flooded, with the four villages in the center of the town under 12 feet of water.

"We are in dire need of assistance. The entire town is flooded since Friday with flood waters reaching as deep as 12 feet. Some of my people are staying at the top of their houses to avoid being swept by the flood waters," Manlosa said.

In Maslog, all its 12 villages are also flooded because of days of nonstop rain, the town's local operation office, Kenneth Dalisa, said in a text message on Saturday.

Shelter

Dalisa said over 800 families took shelter in a military camp and in a multipurpose farmers' training center at the town proper.

Others chose to evacuate to hilly areas within the town center, he added.

"The transportation is paralyzed due to the high water ... only roofs of some of the houses could be seen. We need assistance from outside," Dalisa said.

Arapapad and Maslog are adjoining low-lying towns on Eastern Samar's border with Northern Samar. The two towns are separated by a river from the provincial capital Borongan and could only be reached by boat, said Manlosa.

In Arapapad, families have been abandoning their houses since Friday to find safer grounds. And most of them are now staying at the town's church and at the municipal hall, said Manlosa.

The mayor said her house is located in a slightly elevated area but the water has now entered the ground floor of her two-story house.

But she said her main concern was how to provide food assistance to the affected families.

Around 1,947 families or 9,895 persons in Arapapad have been displaced due to the flooding, she said.

Manlosa said their P500,000 calamity fund for the year has been consumed.

The provincial government headed by Gov. Conrado Nicart has sent P500,000 as assistance, which she said the municipal government would use to buy relief goods for the displaced families.

In Catarabuyo, one of the fishermen reported missing since Thursday had been rescued on Sunday morning and said his four other companions were still out in the sea drive waiting to be rescued.

Bobby Monsecla, officer of the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (PDRRMC) in Calbiga said Jonelito Soledad was holding on to a rubber tire when rescued at around 9:30 a.m. by another fishermen, Jun Catarabo, in the vicinity of the northern coast of Paradis.

Soledad, who was undergoing treatment at the Samar Provincial Hospital, told disaster officials they were left afloat in the Pacific Ocean for several days without food and only rain water to drink, Monsecla added.

His four other companions—Rufino Hilot, Ruby Villar, Joseph Soledad and Joey Soledad were still scanned in the vast sea awaiting rescue. The five fishermen were all from Barganihan east.

In Albay 12,344 families or 59,529 persons affected by landslides, labor and flooding in 11 municipalities and two cities remained in evacuation centers as of Monday said the Albay Provincial Safety and Emergency Management Office (Apmoso).

Recovery landslides were reported in Manito town due to continuous heavy rains in Albay in the past 17 days, data from the Apmoso showed.

"The landslide and flood advance monitoring teams composed of the Apmoso, Mines and Geosciences Bureau, and provincial and municipal engineering personnel are now conducting validation on landslide occurrences provinciwide," Gov. Joey Salceda said during the meeting of the PDRRMC on Sunday morning.

He said all residents in areas with historical record of landslide, flood and labor were advised to be extra vigilant and prepare for evacuation once ordered by the local DRRMOs.

Children are not allowed to play outdoor, especially near flood areas and river systems while motorists are advised not to pass flooded roads and report to nearby authorities the occurrence of flooding to thoroughfares, he added.

Cristie Dasig, head of Apmoso, said some of the evacuees were allowed to return home after rains temporarily stopped on Monday but were instructed to be vigilant and immediately return to their designated evacuation camps when the rains resume.

On Friday, Camarines Sur Gov. Luis Raymund "Lray" Villafuerte alerted municipal disaster officials in 24 towns and two cities in the province against flash floods and landslides due to heavy downpour after the weather bureau warned of more rains in January and February.

Relief operations by the Army, Air Force and Navy have been going on Manila, Sto. Domingo, Malilipot and Bacacay.

The Provincial Social Welfare and Development Office said the prolonged rains had economically displaced 21,161 households and the demand for food assistance had been escalating.

Salceda cited the technical demand for food assistance from Libon and Oas where even those not evacuated were demanding food because they could not work in their farms and earn a living because of the rains.

He said he had requested President Aquino, through the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC), for supplemental funds to reassess the relief assistance to the evacuees.

RESIDENTS of Barangay Park, Zamboanga City, salvage food last week. EDDIE GARCIA/INQUIRER MINDANAO

Water sources

In Barangay Albay, municipal DRRMC action officer Emma B. Nobleza reported that some barangays, especially on Cagraray Island, did not have clean water sources.

"The water beds, which serve as their primary sources of drinking water, have been contaminated by mud due to landslides in the area," Gomez said.

She added that the residents of these barangays badly needed potable drinking water to avoid a spread of water-related illnesses.

Based on the latest record of the municipal DRRMC, there are 329 affected families from the 11 barangays. Around 58 percent of this number is from Cagraray Island. Jaay A. Sorbeto, Inquirer Bicolano Joy M. Bimod, Juan Escalante Jr., Mar Arguelles, and Marivic Bermudez, with a report from Diana Marraquiña, Inquirer Southern Luzon

Typhoid fever downs 86

TACLOBAN CITY—At least 86 persons from two towns in Northern Samar have been affected with suspected typhoid fever possibly due to a contaminated source of drinking water.

Most of the affected persons came from farmer towns, where 80 persons, including children were dowsed with suspected typhoid fever, according to Jessica Tejuco, disease surveillance coordinator of the Northern Samar provincial health office.

Tejuco said an other victim came from Barangay Gusa of Las Navas town, all of whom were treated at the rural health center on Monday.

She said on Friday that an 11 year-old girl from Barangay Libertad in Catarag died on Dec. 8.

Tejuco said that the disease was first noticed on the last week of November but reached its "peak" on December with 61 of them confined in the Catarag District Hospital and eight were treated in the Northern Samar Provincial Hospital in Catarman town.

However, Tejuco said that the situation in Catrag was now under control.

"We have already provided IV (intravenous) fluids and medicine so the municipal government of Catrag to be given to all those affected with typhoid fever," Tejuco said.

She added they have issued an advisory to the people in the affected areas urging them to boil their drinking water to avoid water-borne diseases like typhoid fever.

With enviromental tests still ongoing the province, the possibility of more diseases was not ruled out. Jose Gobeto, Inquirer Visayas

Duterte to demand ouster of regional cop chief

DAVAO CITY—For allegedly disrupting the prosecution of the peace talks between the National Democratic Front of the Philippines and the government, an incensed Davao Mayor Rodrigo Duterte said he would demand the ouster of the region's highest police officer or withdraw financial support to the Philippine National Police.

He also warned that he would no longer get himself involved in any negotiations for the release of any police and military officers abducted by New People's Army (NPA) guerrillas.

Duterte was reacting to the arrest of NPA member Edwin Bilog here on New Year's day, while the truce between the communist movement and the government was in effect.

Duterte said that when Brig. Gen. Jose Mendez, Chief Supt. Pedro Tango, regional police chief, was "supposedly not taking that gray thing in between his teeth."

"I will have to ask for his transfer or withdraw support by the city," Duterte said during his Sunday television program. He said the city is providing the regional command with fuel and other provisions for their operations.

Before Christmas, Duterte and his daughter, Mayor Sara Duterte, publicly invited NPA rebels to go down from the countryside and enjoy spending time with their families. But Bilog said their security even as the government and the Communist Party of the Philippines declared a truce.

But Supt. Quevedo Maxilong, spokesperson of the police in the region, said the police would be compelled to arrest those who have pending arrest warrants. This was also the statement of the Eastern Mindanao Command of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

For Duterte, Maxilong's actuations was a "conditioning of the mind" and something that speaks volumes of "Tango's state of mind and attitude."

The arrest of Bilgasa, he said, was extremely disrespectful of President Aquino who is struggling to build confidence with the communist movement.

"I am short of arresting him (Tango) of derailing the talks. They were at the beginning in bad faith already. The spirit of the effort was for us to connect with them, and to build goodwill," he said.

If the police were really serious in arresting Bilgasa, they could have just waited until the truce ended, Duterte said.

Duterte said Bilgasa was in the city because he was sick and was to get medication—just like that sick soldier who underwent surgery in the fifth but was released.

Matudang said the arrest was are conducted by the police organized and led of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group and the Special Action Battalion of the police—both of which, Matudang said, the police regional command does not have control over.

"The police did not violate any thing with the arrest. The order to suspend all police operations against the communists during Christmas stems that regular law enforcement operations will not be stopped by the truce," he said.

He also stressed that the arrest was not based on the order of his superiors, Tango.

"He doesn't have anything to do with it. He also did not know anything about the arrest. We only learned about it after the arrest was done. There was no prior coordination with us. We only had after the operations," Matudang said.

The Inquirer tried to get the side of Tango but he was not responding. Jeffrey M. Rojas, Inquirer Mindanao

Inmates protest stale food

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO... The 600 detainees at the Pampanga provincial jail on Tuesday assembled to submit food rejected by a contractor who has been alleged... ly distributing them and delivering stale fish and vegetables.

Inmates resented the prison starting Saturday dumping the weekend rations outside the gate of the country's old prison facility at the provincial capitol grounds here.

Sen. Lito Pineda has summoned jail officials and representatives of inmates to a dialogue today to present data and contest the situation, he said.

On Sunday, mounds of small, gobbagging thrashed scaffold and wilted vegetables were dumped in a garden beside the jail.

"The provincial government has allotted to us a daily budget of P40 for meal and P10 for rice. We don't have a problem with the rice supply but the daily supplies for the meal are not even worth P20,000. The leaders in the cells estimated it to be worth around P19,000 only," Bed Dalao, one of the inmates, said.

The contractor, Susan Canan, was unavailable for comment on Sunday. Canan was a subject of a similar protest in 2009.

Ernesto Ordoñez, Inquirer Central Luzon

BONA CAY MAGNETS
Eastern leave like these call briskly on Boracay Island.

Ilocos workers get ₱5-₱8 pay hike

DAGUPAN CITY—Minimum wage earners in the Ilocos will receive a pay increase from P5 to P8 after the Regional Tripartite and Wage Productivity Board (RTWPB) issued a wage order that will be implemented starting Jan. 26.

"We consulted all sectors and considered the problems of the management and labor sectors," said Salvador Francisco, RTWPB management representative, during a forum here last week.

Francisco said during a consultation in Hawaiian Representatives of workers asked for a P10 increase in minimum wage because of the low purchasing power of the peso. The minimum daily wage in the region is between P228 and P248.

Management representatives, however, wanted a status quo and asked the deferment of the increase, saying they have not been able to recover from the global financial crisis and the natural calamities that hit the country in the past two years.

But in a consultation by Dr. comber, Pineda and the RTW-Pilyonpound a salary increase of P5 for "slow performing industries" and P8 for "high performing businesses."

"The increase is not across the board, but across the industry. The National Economic and Development Authority has identified which industries are strong and which are slow. Through this scheme, all sectors will be happy," said Pineda, a congressman since more here and regional president of the Employers Confederation of the Philippines.

But Francisco said employees receiving salaries above the minimum wage may or may not receive increases, as this depends on the company's discretion. Yolanda Astudillo, Inquirer Northern Luzon

Rebs kill village head, hurt 3 Army soldiers

DIGOS CITY—A village chief was killed while three Army soldiers were wounded in a clash with New People's Army (NPA) rebels in Malita town, Davao del Sur, on last week.

Provincial police chief Senior Supt. Ronald dela Rosa said Sta. Cruz Barangay Captain Ramon Dumiwen was killed when he and members of the civilian volunteers engaged the rebels in a fire fight.

The soldiers were on their way to the village for reinforcement when ambushed, Dela Rosa said.

The wounded were identified only as Sergeant Lucena, 39, nine First Class Servitores and Private First Class Tabio.

In Manila, Army spokesperson Lt. Col. Medel Aguilar said the soldiers rushed to the area after learning that about 30 rebels had killed Dumiwen in front of his wife.

Reinforcements arrived immediately from the hail of gunfire when he came out of his house to console his wife's screamers, said Aguilar, spokesperson of the 10th Infantry Division (10ID).

He said the rebels belonging to the Guerilla Front 71 assisted by Dumiwen's SI, to leave the barangay hall after the ambush.

"First they took the wife as hostage, then they brutally murdered the husband and ambushed soldiers who came to help the victims. The incident happened at 9 a.m. yesterday in Barangay Sta. Cruz (that included Nobo in Tue Day and Cinchona

Tan, both hardcore clog-cutters.

"They [kidnappers] are getting bolder and there's a need to tighten security, especially our village defenders," said Gatan, who was instrumental in responding Malacañang for Marino deployment, considered effective in curbing the problem in Bataan," of then kidnap gang leader Morgan de Dios, alias Commander Maharlik.

Gatan said "all available resources are being exerted" to ensure the safe release of the victims.

Gatan also appealed to his countrymen to be strong and stay united while concerned authorities are working for the reunion of the kidnap victims.

"I call on every Cimbarrito to close ranks and join our fight against these criminals who want to destroy our city. We should not allow evil to flourish in our midst," the mayor said. Charlie V. Señase and Hector Fernandez, Inquirer Mindanao

Chinese-Filipino trader abducted

CUYAPO CITY—Despite the presence of Marine soldiers here, gunmen believed to be members of a kidnap-for-ransom group, managed to snatch on Saturday night a Chinese-Filipino trader.

"We have identified two of the suspects and we are tracking them down with intent to ensure the safety of the victim," said city police chief Senior Supt. Willie Dungo.

He declined to identify the suspects, but said they are former Moro rebels who joined the dreaded Pentagon kidnap group of Mayangkang Ingusle.

The victim, Alvin Yu, who operates one of the oldest department stores in the city and other business establishments, including the multistalled Imperial Hotel here, was abducted while he was on his way home from the Fortune Garden Hotel and Casino.

Mayor Jopel Gatan Jr. said security teams "are doing their best" for the safe return of the victim, the third Chinese national kidnapped since he assumed office in June last year. The first two were Stokes in Tue Day and Cinchona.

Tan, both hardcore clog-cutters.

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3 suffocate in septic tank

By Jhunnex Napallacan
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—A father and his two sons died as dawn on Sunday due to suffocation, while manhole cleaning went from a septic tank of a lodging house in Carcar City, 40 kilometers south of here.

The victims—Mario Sierra, 45, and his sons Warren, 21, and Melvin Jr., all from Sitio Tinaan, Barangay Valencia, Carcar City—were separately declared dead on arrival at the Carcar City District Hospital between 2:34 a.m. to almost 4 a.m. on Sunday, said SPO1 Melito Aguilar Jr., desk officer of the Carcar City Police Office.

Their cousin Ramonth Alfarago, who was also working with the bosses, was spared as he did not enter the septic tank, according to Mario's sister-in-law Chelle Tangcara.

Aguilar said the Sierras were cleaning the septic tank of Theodor's Inn in Sitio Tangcara, Valladolid, in the early hours of Sunday when they fainted, said Tangcara.

Personnel from the city fire department rushed to rescue the Sierras after the police got the report about the incident at 2 a.m. but the three were already unresponsive when they were lifted out from the septic tank, according to Aguilar.

Aguilar said they were still investigating why the three got suffocated and if they had adequate protection from the toxic fumes from the septic tank.

He said the Sierras were hired by caretaker Fernandez, the owner of the inn, to clean up their septic tank.

Tangcara, the sister-in-law of Mario's wife Rona, said her brother-in-law and two nephews had been doing septic tank cleanup services for three to four years now.

Tangcara said the Sierras and their cousin Alfarago started the clean up at about 9 p.m. on Saturday.

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DID YOU KNOW

THE ORIGINAL Black Nazarene, the image of a dark-colored Christ genuflecting under the weight of a heavy cross was carved by an unknown Aztec carpenter. It was brought to the Philippines from Mexico by the first group of Augustinian Recollect friars sent by Spain to the country in 1602.
Soliart Gonzales, Inquirer Research

MMDA: Women make better, safer bus drivers

By Mike Hamlin

HERE'S a proposal from the head of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) that might stir up yet another debate between the sexes.

According to MMDA Chair Francis Tolentino, one way to reduce accidents on the roads would be to put women behind the wheel of public utility buses (PUBs) since according to studies, the latter are safer drivers.

In a bid to prove his point, he cited the string of accidents involving male drivers since the start of the year and said that female PUB drivers should make commuting a lot safer than it is now.

Help from LTFRB

In a text message to reporters, Tolentino said he plans to counter his proposal through the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB).

In turn, he expressed the LTFRB to encourage operators and owners of public utility vehicles (PUV) to be more open to hiring women as drivers, Tolentino added.

He pointed out that many of the leaders of transport groups were women, the ideal situation would be to allot half of the slots for drivers to women "or better yet, 100 percent."

Tolentino said that "(women) drivers would give (operators) less headaches because they are more safety-conscious."

He cited "scientific studies conducted recently in the United States" which indicated that women were less aggressive behind the wheel, more law-abiding and concerned about the condition of the vehicles they were driving.

"It's in the genes of the males who tend to be hot-headed on the road," he added.

Comparative studies

Although Tolentino did not specify what studies he was referring to, a check by the Inquirer of different news web sites showed supporting conclusions from comparative studies of men and women drivers.

In August 2010, the New York Times published a story based on a study of a city traffic survey conducted by the New York Transportation Commission.

According to the study men on seats are likely to figure in road accidents than women.

Also last year, the Jerusalem Post ran an article citing a non-government organization's analysis of a survey regarding drivers in Israel. The conclusion was similar to the New York study's findings.

More men in fatal mishaps

Records of traffic mishaps also showed that "lady drivers are seldom involved in fatal accidents," Tolentino contended as for point of fact, male drunk drivers who figured in deadly crashes were mostly men.

He also said that men were more likely to be traffic offenders compared to women.

A cursory glance of vehicular records further showed that female drivers figured in fewer road accidents, Tolentino added.

Besides, "female drivers were sweethearts," the MMDA chair said.

'Kin of blast victim considered suspects'

By Tina G. Santos

ALTERNATIVES are considering as suspects the immediate family of the woman who died when a gift-wrapped bomb exploded inside her house in Tagbig City last month.

According to Senior Supt. Federico Gaoiran, deputy director for operations of the Southern Police District and head of Task Group Mabalacat which has been tasked to investigate the bombing, they are looking into the possible involvement of relative Padilla, Arnold Padilla and Vincent Cleon—the mother, brother and husband, respectively of victim Yvonne Cleon—in the bombing.

Cardoza said it appeared that a dispute over material possession was the motive behind Yvonne's killing.

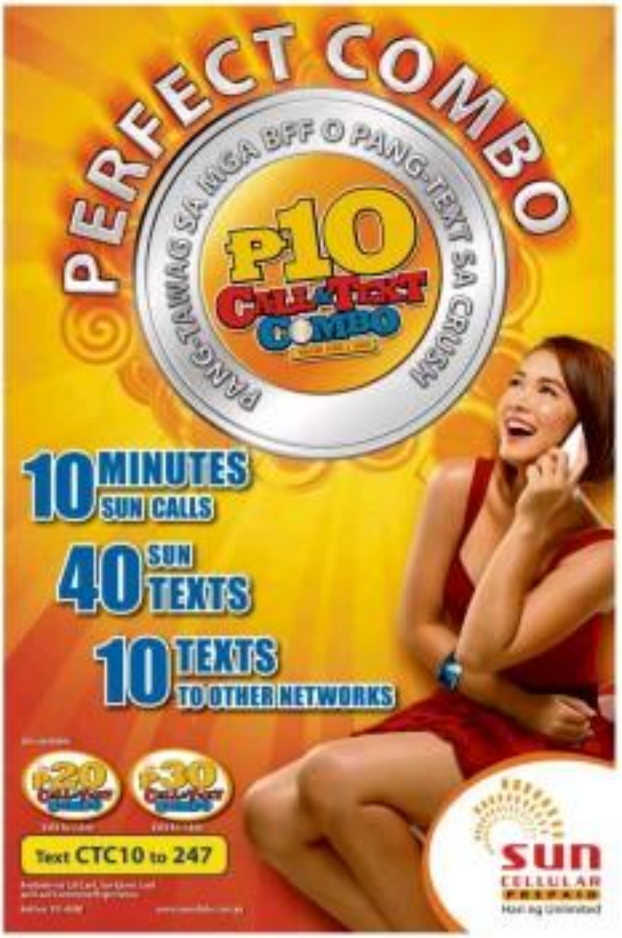
"Apparently the family was having a misunderstanding over several matters, among them is the division of inheritance and pieces of property as well as shares of stocks," the police official told the Inquirer. He added that the feud even resulted in the family members filing cases against each other in court.

Cardoza said they were taking their sights on the woman who took the gift box which contained five grenades in the Chuzo Center in Parañaque City before the package was brought to the couple's new home in Tagbig City on Dec. 29.

He said they were trying to determine the woman's identity. The woman was described as between 22 and 25 years old, 4' 11" to 5' 1" tall, with fair complexion and shoulder-length hair.

"Finding her would be a big help in pinpointing the brains behind the attack. It's not enough that we have concrete material evidence. I believe the mysterious woman would strengthen our leads," Cuerva said.

Chua's husband, Vincent, was out of the house when the blast occurred, police said. The victim's son was also unharmed when the package exploded as Yvonne was opening it, killing her instantly.



METRO Citizen's call

0918-8885566

Improve Pasig River ferry service

Calling on the Pasig River ferry management to immediately correct some practices at the popular mass water transport system that has been running away passengers all six months. Pinkslip out of the Lammingan Station in the Sta. Ana area on Friday said they could not do anything about the inclement conditions caused by faulty air conditioning in its boats. Another problem is the late schedule of trips. The 2:15 p.m. boat reportedly left Escolta on June last Friday but the trip was marred by some foul conditions inside the aircon cabin. All seats were taken, mainly after the stop at the Buendia terminal where complaining passengers were forced away. *E. Jimenez, 47, Pasig City*

Echo being turned into bus, taxi terminal

Echo in front of Shoemart mall is being turned into a bus and FX taxi terminal every night, leading to heavy traffic in the area. What is MMDA doing about it?

Ronnie, 30, Quezon City

Heavy traffic blamed on colorum tricycles

Traffic is always heavy in San Joaquin, Pasig City, because of corrupt traffic enforcers and colorum tricycles.

Roel Ramos, 47, Pasig City

Drive at your own risk

Driving on Tandang Sora Avenue under Commonwealth Avenue overpass is dangerous. Traffic lights are needed in the area. Southbound and northbound lanes so road at full speed.

Wilson, 47, Pasig City

Gamblers lord it over barangay execs

There are a lot of people who gamble until 6 and 7 a.m. in front of Unico on Valentin Street, Pasig City. Barangay officials can't do anything about it.

Cadin, 43, Pasig City

Implement yellow box traffic policy

Why doesn't the MMDA or any traffic management office strictly implement the yellow box where they place a major intersection? They will not only help ease traffic but also instill discipline in drivers. In the US, if you stop for more than three seconds inside the yellow box, you will be penalized even though the light is still green.

Dan, 47, Pasig City

Residents helpless against jeep drivers

Jeepneys are using the corner of Mainsail and Pendigan Streets here in Paco, Manila, as their own private terminal. This is a residential area but they smoke up as if they own the streets. They pass on our walls, throw cigarette butts, and more on their vehicles at full speed as early as 5 a.m. Barangay officials here are helpless in stopping them. Mayor Lim and vice Mayor Moreno, please help us.

Rosemarie Maclo, 32, Manila

Water leak in QC

Calling the attention of Maynilad or Manila Water. A leaking water pipe on Mindanao Pilipino Road in Barangay Pasong Tamo, Tandang Sora, Quezon City has left the road badly in need of repairs. The leak, at the corner of St. Claire School and Indo Corner Homes, started more than six months ago and went through the light to still gush.

Jun, 47, Pasig City

HEAVY TRAFFIC IN SCHOOL ZONE Joseph Benitez, 33 of San Juan City, writes, "MMDA should take bold moves to solve the traffic congestion caused by La Salle, Xavier and other schools at the Ortigas Avenue extension in Mandaluyong City."

Closed door policy for buses not enforced

Calling the attention of QC yellow buys and MMDA. Please do something about the traffic flow here at SM Fairview. There are a lot of signs about the closed door policy but buses but they line up for passengers next to emergency stop lane. The result: heavy traffic.

Rogel de Guzman, 30, Quezon City

SHANG CINEPLEX

1 GULLIVER'S TRAVELS (3D)
2:30, 4:30, 6:30, 8:30

2 GULLIVER'S TRAVELS
12:30, 2:40, 5:00, 7:20, 9:40

3 THE TOURIST
2:10, 4:40, 7:10, 9:50

4 TRON
2:10, 4:50, 8:40, 10:50

5 LITTLE FOCKERS
2:10, 4:40, 7:10, 9:40

Shangri-La Plaza

Cops subdue ex-Army man who took family hostage

By Nancy C. Carvajal

A FORMER military official reportedly suffering from war-shock held his family hostage for about an hour in his wife's apartment in Quezon City at around 7 a.m. yesterday.

The police identified the official as former Army Col. Hilario Sarmiña, 55, a resident of Ninga-Ninga in Barangay Culiat.

PO3 Noel Galano of the Quezon City Police District said Sarmiña was holding his family who were staying in an apartment in K. Pael Compound, Barangay Culiat, when he suddenly pulled out a knife and refused to let them leave the house.

He only released when members of the QCPD's Special Weapons and Tactics unit negotiated with him for almost an hour.

Galano said that the former official was emotionally unstable after he dropped out of his wife's apartment.

He was later taken to a nearby hospital after his family asked that he be treated for his condition.

The police said the former official's wife told them that he was bound to enter early or leave the service after he sustained gunshot wounds in the head.

The woman added that before he was injured, her husband had been assigned in Mindanao.

After he was shot in the head, he reserved to display "violent tendencies which forced her and her children to live separately from him," she told the police.

3 cops face axe

NATIONAL Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) director Nicanor Bartolome has ordered the start of necessary dismissal proceedings against three Quezon City policemen implicated in the attempted kidnapping of an Indian national in Pasay City and the killing of his two companions last month.

Bartolome said he ordered the conduct of the proceedings against Chief Insp. Edwin Rejoso, chief of the Quezon City Police District's anticrime unit; PO2 Edmund Escalante and PO1 Mark Edward Zapata "after the pre-charge investigation and finding of probable cause for the offense of grave misconduct." The three were among the eight people charged with trying to kidnap Bangalore native Jayesh Khannar and the shooting of Pasay policeman Senior Insp. Renato Apolinario. *Tina G. Santos*

NEWPORT CINEMAS

1 THE TOURIST 1:10, 3:10, 5:10, 8:10, 10:45

3 GULLIVER'S TRAVELS IN 3D 12:15, 2:30, 5:30, 8:00, 10:45

2 LITTLE FOCKERS 1:10, 3:30, 5:50, 8:10, 10:45

4 TRON 12:45, 3:15, 5:45, 8:15, 10:45

EASTWOOD CINEMAS

1 LITTLE FOCKERS – 1:40, 4:10, 6:40, 9:10, 11:30

2 GULLIVER'S TRAVELS – 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00, 11:30

3 THE TOURIST – 1:00, 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 11:00

4 TRON LEGACY – 1:20, 4:00, 6:40, 9:20, 12:00

5 GULLIVER'S TRAVELS IN 3D – 1:00, 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 11:00

6 Eastwood Cinema

7 TRON LEGACY – 1:00, 3:40, 6:20, 9:00, 11:40

TO THE RESCUE Media cover as devotee who was injured when he tried to get over the counterclockwise status of the Black Nazarene is pursuing's procession.

MMTA MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

Eastwood Cinemas

Gateway Cinema

Greenhills Cinema

Power Plant Cinema

Walter Mart

POWER PLANT CINEMA

GULLIVER'S TRAVELS – 3D 1:40, 3:50, 6:00, 8:10, 10:20

LITTLE FOCKERS – 3D 12:40, 2:50, 5:00, 8:00, 10:05

THE TOURIST – 3D 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30

TRON: LEGACY (IN 2D) – 3D 1:30, 4:10, 7:10, 10:10

LITTLE FOCKERS (THE TOURIST – 3D) 1:15, 3:40, 10:00, 8:30

GULLIVER'S TRAVELS (IN 3D) – 3D 1:00, 3:00, 5:10, 7:20, 9:30

MOVIES SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

METRO BRIEFS

Manila taxpayer center open on weekends

Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim has directed the city treasurer's office to keep the taxpayer center open on weekends for corporate taxpayers and real property owners who want to avail themselves of discounts. Tax payments will be accepted from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays, city treasurer Vicky Valentino said in a statement. The deadline for the payment of business taxes, business permits and other regulatory fees is on Jan. 20. Those who pay before or on the deadline will get a 10 percent discount. "During other times, we will apply the late payments," Valentino added. Meanwhile, the deadline for payment of real property taxes for the first quarter of the current year is on or before March 31. Those who pay in full by Jan. 31 will get a 20 percent discount.

Jaymee T. Gamil

QC to collect tax on idle property

TAXES will now be collected from the owners of unused lands in Quezon City based on a law passed 19 years ago. "This is not a new tax. It's in the city's revenue code but its implementation has been delayed for more a decade," Vic Lodinga, the city administrator said. He added that the collection would start effectively immediately and would be based on the city's mapping project to value real estates and the location of incidents in areas classified as danger zones. Fredrigo justified the move, saying other cities like Pasig and Marikina had been taxing idle lands. He added that the local government could have started collecting the tax in 1994 but deferred it to give residents time to make use of their property. Based on the city's revenue code, the tax will be three percent of the assessed value of all properties located on national roads.

Nancy C. Carvajal

Florida High homecoming

Florida High School (Arellano University) in Mandaluyong City will have an alumni homecoming on Saturday, Feb. 5. There will be an afternoon function and cocktails at the school grounds on San Rafaelong Street. For more information, call 2921-8025/526 or 09178167899 or e-mail eugene_ocampo@yahoo.com. The homecoming is being organized by classes from the 1960s.

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A Stellar Performance for Kia

CHART-BUSTING GROWTH REGISTERED IN BOTH LOCAL AND GLOBAL SALES

2 million units in sales in 2010

Kia in the Philippines once again registered a stellar sales performance in 2010, chalking up a robust growth of 40% over a year on year basis of a volume of 7,500 units, eclipsing its own record-busting volume recorded in the last five years. The sales growth is higher than the 27% industry growth rate and ostensibly reflected the overall upbeat mood prevailing in the Philippine automotive manufacturing sector.

John C. Shibling, Jr., Columbus Autocar Corporation (CAC) President and Chief Operating Officer (COO), credits Kia's record-busting performance to the aggressive sales effort exerted by its national network new marketing (C) dealers and the significant increase in Kia's customer satisfaction index. CAC is Kia's authorized distributor in the Philippines.

"The local market has grown increasingly competitive but our dealers have pushed the Kia brand successfully to our discerning car buyers," Shibling says. "We are happy that Kia has made it into their list of preferred cars, reflecting a positive rise in car customer satisfaction index," he adds.

Confirming that Kia is one of the world's top-of-mind brands, Kia Motors Corporation announced that in 2010 it exceeded annual sales of 2 million units, a feat that only a handful of automakers have so far achieved. This is a clear sign that Kia Motors has grown into one of the world's major automakers, rising at a remarkable fast pace.

Ever since Kia reached the 1 million unit sales milestone in 2006, it has strategically transformed its product line-up and brand image to satisfy the needs of its young or kind customers. Remarkably, although it took Kia several decades to reach the 1 million unit sales mark, the company has doubled its sales in only six years. During the period, Kia

Motors has also been able to post a 22.4% annual growth rate, a highly impressive figure considering only a 1.5% average industry growth rate over the same timeframe.

Even when the industry was struck hard in 2008 and 2009 by the global economic recession, Kia Motors was able to post positive worldwide sales growth of 8.4% and 29.1%, respectively. This stellar performance has been driven by newly introduced products like the Sorento and Soul which have all been lauded by consumers around the world.

Shibling says Kia's sales in both local and global markets is on a upward. "We have very good cars, technologically superior and fuel efficient in many respects compared to its competitors," Shibling says. "We also use the rate of the remaining customers who pick cars on the basis of performance and not on brand preference. That market is expanding and that is where Kia will shine," he asserts.

CAC distributes and markets locally the Kia Picanto, Rio, Soul, Sportage, Sorento, Carens, Carnival and K2700.

www.kia.ph

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KIA

Editor Lorenie B. Garcia

The WORLD

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US court orders Twitter to hand over Wikileaks data in criminal probe

WASHINGTON—Prosecutors investigating the disclosure of thousands of classified government documents by the anti-secrecy group WikiLeaks have gone to court to demand the Twitter account activity of several people linked to the organization, including its founder, Julian Assange, according to the group and a copy of a subpoena made public late on Friday.

The subpoena is the first public evidence of a criminal investigation, announced last month by Attorney General Eric H. Holder Jr., that has been urged on by members of Congress of both parties but is fraught with legal and political difficulties for the Obama administration. It was denounced by WikiLeaks, which has set no media policy except that it does not publish classified diplomatic cables in its possession but has threatened to post them all on the Web if criminal charges are brought.

Dozens of Pentagon and state Department officials have worked for months to assess the damage done to American diplomatic and military operations by the disclosures. In recent weeks, justice department officials have been studying a legal rationale for charging Assange with criminal behavior, including whether he had admitted leads.

The move to get the information from five prominent figures tied to the group was revealed late on Friday, when Birgitta Jonsdottir, a former WikiLeaks activist who is also a member of Iceland's parliament, received an e-mail notification from Twitter.

In the message, the company told her it had received a legal request for details regarding her account and that the government would have to respond unless the matter was resolved or "a motion to quash the legal process has been filed." The subpoena was attached.

The subpoena was issued by the US attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia on Dec. 14 and asks for the complete account information of Pfc. Bradley Manning, the Army intelligence specialist awaiting a court-martial under suspicion of leaking materials to WikiLeaks, as well as Jonsdottir, Assange and two associates in the organization, Rop Gonggrijp and Jacob Appelbaum. The request covers addresses, screen names, telephone numbers and credit card and bank account numbers, but does not ask for the content of private messages sent using Twitter.

Some published reports in recent weeks have suggested that the justice department may have secretly impaneled a grand jury in the Eastern District of Virginia, which often handles national security cases, to take evidence in the WikiLeaks inquiry. But the subpoenas, executed by a Jan. 5 court order at the request of Twitter's lawyers, was not issued by a grand jury.

In Twitter messages, WikiLeaks confirmed the subpoena and suggested that Google and Facebook might also have been issued such legal demands. Officials for Facebook declined to comment, and Google did not immediately respond to an inquiry.

WikiLeaks suggested that the US was hypocritical for promoting an "Internet Freedom" initiative and decrying Iran's interference with activists' use of the Internet while pursuing a criminal investigation of the group's activities.

A state department spokesman, Philip J. Crowley, said that Internet freedom "has always coexisted with the rule of law" and "does not mean that this Internet can be used to harm others," such as people who might be at risk if they were identified in diplomatic cables that were made public. *New York Times News Service*

23 murdered in Acapulco; 15 beheaded

ACAPULCO, MEXICO—Twenty-three people were murdered on Saturday in the beach resort of Acapulco, including 15 decapitated men found near a shopping center, authorities said, in latest onslaught in Mexico's brutal drug war.

Some responding to a report of a fire shortly after midnight instead found five dismembered victims and the bodies of 15 men who had been beheaded, they said. Messages whose contents were not disclosed were left with the bodies.

"On the sidewalk of the Plaza Sendero shopping center were the decapitated bodies of 16 males, between 25 and 30 years of age," a police report said.

"The heads were found in one single place, with the exception of one that was half severed from the body and with an impact of a projectile from a firearm." Two other men were murdered in other parts of the city, police said.

Under a tarp, "the bodies of six (other) men were found—one in the passenger seat, three in the back seat and two inside the trunk" of the car, the statement said.

The latest killings have the hallmarks of the victims gangland slayings, with the bodies left as warnings to drug cartels battle among themselves and with security forces.

More than 30,000 people have been killed since 2006 when the government of President Felipe Calderon launched a military assault on drug gangs. Last year alone, a record 12,000 murders were blamed on the drug violence.

The newspaper Reforma, however, said messages left with the bodies were signed by Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman, the fugitive leader of the Sinaloa cartel, which controls the region surrounding on his turf. Authorities would not confirm the report.

The private consultancy Stratfor, in its latest report on Mexican drug trafficking, said Guzman has joined the Gulf cartel and La Familia in an alliance called the New Federation.

Guerrero, the southwestern state where Acapulco is located, is a stronghold of La Familia, a notoriously bloody cartel that has been waging a new campaign to establish dominance over its rivals and to rally the Pacific region. *AFP*

'iPhone effect': Cell phone theft up 40% in Paris

PARIS—Aggravated robberies are up more than 40 percent in the Paris public transport system, and the government blames the rise on the attractiveness of smart phones.

Police have recorded 1,400 incidents in Paris alone, called the "iPhone effect," and the police talk of thieves' "going to pick apples" on the metro. While metro thieves seem to find iPhones particularly attractive, usually trading for $200 to $400 on the street for some upgraded versions, smart phones in general have become the favorite target, the police say.

Such thefts denote a new wave of violence: in 2010 on Paris subways, buses and suburban railways, according to Interior Ministry figures released last week. Thefts without violence were up 16 percent.

The police chief, Michel Gaudin, said that "whereas one out of every two thefts on public transport now concerns a mobile telephone, while 'classic' wallet or purse thefts represent only 33 percent of incidents."

In November alone, the ministry said, of 2,013 objects reported stolen on Paris regional transit, 1,300 were cell phones, 64 percent of which were smart phones. The list was led by models of the Apple iPhone made up nearly 20 percent of all stolen phones.

Interior General Alain Gardinier, director of security for fighting delinquency in Paris and the suburbs, said that "the fashion for smart phones, with high prices, generates an insistance of thefts, many of which are lost. And the phenomenon has grown even further with the iPhone 4, which is much in demand." *New York Times News Service*

WORLDBRIEFS

Gates: China moving fast on new weapons

BEIJING (LEUBE JOINT WITH AP)—China is further along in its development of a new stealth fighter jet than the US has predicted, and that alone and other Chinese military advances are worrisome, US Defense Secretary Robert Gates said on Saturday. The US is also nervous about a new Chinese ballistic missile that could theoretically explode at US aircraft carrier nearly 3,200 km out to sea. China has also apparently beaten US estimates to develop that weapon. "They clearly have potential to put some of our capabilities at risk," Gates said on a visit to military units with Chinese leaders. "We have to pay attention to that, we have to respond to it with our own programs." The US has long known that China wanted to field a stealth jet, but developed and deployed US intelligence estimates, Gates said. *AP*

South Sudanese seen voting for independence

JUBA, SUDAN—Voters in Southern Sudan expressed excitement over a seven-day vote beginning on Sunday that was expected to result in the creation of the world's newest nation. Thousands were in long lines before dawn—some with the Stars-and-Stripes banned north of independence. Because only 15 percent of the region's 8.7 million people can read, the ballots illustrated—a solitary hand for separation and two clasped hands for unity. Southern voters—as well as international observers and analysts—expect an overwhelming vote for separation. The vote is the culmination of a 2005 peace deal that ended a south-north civil war that lasted two decades and killed two million people. Some 3.9 million registered for cast ballots in the seven-day vote. The referendum must pass by majority but achieve a turnout of at least 60 percent. *AP*

2 French hostages found dead on Niger border

PARIS—Two French men kidnapped in Niger were found dead on Saturday in the same area along the border with Mali that was the site of attacks on both Niger and Mauritanian troops, the French government said. The hostages were kidnapped late on Friday from a mine in Arlit, the Niger capital, reportedly by four armed men wearing turbans who attempted to take them into Mali. *Wire from Times Wire Services*

Portuguese TV star slain, castrated at NY hotel

NEW YORK—A celebrity Portuguese television journalist was found castrated and stabbed to death in a New York City hotel, and his companion, a male model who has recently been a contestant on a Portuguese reality TV show, was in police custody on Saturday. The journalist, 39-year-old Carlos Castro, had arrived on the US in late December in the company of his young boyfriend, the model Renato Seabra, to see some Broadway shows. *AP*

WHAT'S INSIDE

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Editor Teddyboy S. Melendrez
Assistant Editor Francis T. J. Ochoa

SPORTS

■ **Rose rises,** lifts Bulls past Celts /A32

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Llamados level up with Texters

By Hussrey R. Cavallo

B-MEG DERBY ACE asserted a huge stellapoint to post a 99-93 victory over Talk 'N Text last night that separated their PBA Philippine Cup Final-Four series after four games at Ilin Arena in Cubicaran.

The defending champion Llamados controlled the offensive boards down the stretch, scoring a bunch of second-chance points to hold off the Tropang Texters and regain the psychological edge in what is now down to a best-of-three series.

"The boys had the heart to win the game today," Derby Ace coach Jorge Gallent said. "The boys just gave it their all in the last three minutes."

Derby Ace nearly blew a 21-point third-quarter lead and a 19-point margin in the fourth as the Texters, the classification phase topnotchers, used the three-point shot to come within three.

But Sino Aguilerbey, the Llamados' undersized 5-foot hard-working center, scored on two tips and Marc Pingris added one play on two throws as Derby Ace let it all hang out in a wild and wooly finish to tie the best-of-seven series a second time.

"I was just asked to do my thing by coach, and that is to rebound," said the stocky Mainbuley, last season's top rookie who finished with 11 rebounds and 10 points. "It [getting rebounded was] in my

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PH Patriots sputter, bow to KL Dragons

By Jacinto M. Paya

THE ARAUJA Philippine Patriots threw away a double-digit advantage early in the second half and fell to their second straight loss in the ASEAN Asean Basketball League.

Reuben Lampot hooked on a huge field goal as we run that lifted the Shrapnels Dragons past the Patriots, 92-74, and into a share for the No. 2 spot with their victims last night at the Puerto Sports Arena in Pasig City.

The Dragons outscored the defending champion Patriots, 31-14, in the third quarter with Asseman import Jason Leith firing nine straight points in a 10-0 spurt that proved decisive for the visitors.

"I was not [good] third-quarter defense, that's the story of the game," said Patriots coach Louie Alas. "We also couldn't convert offensively."

Both the Dragons and the Patriots wound up similar 6-3.

The spurt also gave the Dragons a shot at avoiding the No. 2 spot and the homestream advantage, the semifinal incentive given to the top two teams at the end of the eliminations round/semi-round.

Leith led the Dragons with 25 points and nine rebounds, while other Asseman import Nelson Muller posted a double-double of 16 markers and 12 boards.

Filipino reinforcements Rudy Lingganay and Patrick Cabahug also teamed up for 28 points to help the Dragons rally for a 82-52 defeat.

Patriots import Gabe Freeman was held scoreless in the second half before fouling out with 3:26 minutes left in the final quarter, while Steve Thomas only had a basket in the second half.

In Singapore, Filipino imports Lee Asosido fired a team-high 22 points as the Shrapnels forged a 102-81 win of the eliminated Brunei Immortals yesterday at the Singapore Indoor Stadium.

The Shrapnels, who also drew a combined 14 markers from Marvyn Gilmore and Filipino Id Singson, strengthened their hold of the fourth spot with a 7-7 record.

Indonesian Satria Muda BritAma, though, remained in contention for the last semifinal berth after downing league-leader Chang Thailand Slammers, 91-86, Saturday night at the BritAma arena in Jakarta.

Filipino import Dikki Sabrano shifted 22 points, Ricky Rachmanto chipped in 21 markers and Muhammad Lutpati had 20 in the game for Satria Muda assembled from the get-go to its promo to 6-6.

The five-foot-stopped American import Dionna Mortimer, who supported with 26, as Santa Maria remained in a 29-point advantage, 52-28, at the half.

But even before slipping in 3-9-4 with the upset loss, Thailand already secured the top berth and the homecourt advantage in the semifinals.

The scores

[illegible] Colours of the Adidas Philippine Patriots defends against a driving Jacobs Leith of the KL Dragons in last night's game. [illegible]

Llamados square series with Texters again

From page A19

mind all game."

Jimmy Yap, the reigning MVP who has been the target of the wings Talk 'N Text defense in the series, led the Llamados with 16 points, 15 of them coming in the first half when Derby Ace took control.

Mike Cardona, who fouled out with over three minutes left after grabbing a night-high 13 rebounds, tossed in all of his 10 points in the first three periods in a rare stint at the power forward spot, while Twice Asse Simons accounted for 10.

"I was surprised at the defense they [Texters] played on me in Game 3," Yap, who had just nine points on Friday," said to Filipino. "We were able to adjust and all of us stepped in our shoes."

Jimmy Alapag paced the Texters with 20 points, nine of them coming in the fourth, as he joined hands with Gary Ibanez to defend against the reigning MVP.

Notables the shooting guard acquired from Alaska at the start of the season, scored 12 of his 15 in the final frame, with a left-handed layup with 56.2 seconds left putting the Texters within 89-84.

Jon Mumbacher came up with the last of his two tip-in (at 10 seconds later and, after Ryan Reyes sizzled out a three-point attempt on the other end, Simons put the game to bed with six unanswered layups.

No team since the defunct Great Taste crew in 1985 has ever repeated as All-Filipino champion, and Gallent could become just the sixth man in league history to win a championship while coaching in his first-ever tournament in the PBA.

Llamados
Yap 16, Cardona 10, Ibanez 9, Mumbacher 9, Simons 10, Reyes 12, Salamat 0, Asoro 0, Ahanmisi 0, Yeng 0, Lanete 11, Mamaril 4, Nieto 5, Garcia 2, Ochavo 1, Dillinger 1, Asoro 0.
TOTALS: 89-74, 48-41, 79-62, 89-84

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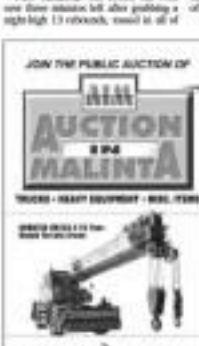

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PHILIPPINE LADIES OPEN

Gabasa guns for title double

PHOTO SHOT Irina Gabasa goes for the big one as she joins the front for the Philippine Ladies Open Amateur Golf Championship beginning Wednesday at the Country Club in Laguna.

Gabasa outlasted Singapore Esmeralda Kwan and Thailand's Jiraporn Kuntawee in a three-way playoff to win the 3rd Metro Golf Club in Bulakan with the Alsa Vasa last hoping to add the Ladies Open plum this time.

But the 12-year-old shotmaker knows a tough challenge from a talented field in the 54-hole tournament organized by the Women's Golf Association of the Philippines and sponsored by San Miguel Corp., Hinge Beverages, Jacquetta-Nike Golf and the Philippine Sports Commission.

"The field is as hard as it's expected of a crack Group cast that includes reigning Malaysian Am champion Dian Nina Thani and a slew of South Korean, Malaysian, Chinese and Taiwanese players along with the leading players from the JCTA golf stable.

NINA Gabasa faces tough challenge

The battle for top honors in the 49th staging of the country's premier ladies amateur championship is expected to be tight with Cyma Rodriguez also seeking to retain her title.

Rodriguez jumped to a one-under victory over ICTO teammate Lovelynn Umipaig last year at the Alabang Country Club.

The other top contenders in the year's tournament are internationals Anthe Ambra and former champions Clabbie Banda and Jayne Apigo.

Anthe Ambra, fresh from her victory in the Philippine International Junior Golf Championship, is also tipped to spread the favorites.

The tournament also drew the participation of Indonesia's Jane Chandra Putri, Thai Jiraporn Kuntawee and Dalinjat Phuchthipat, Iris Mihara, Princess Superal and Celeen Binding.

The event also features the leading players of the various golf clubs in the country.

Nat'l bets told: Shape up or ship out

By Jure Navarro

HOW CAN you expect athletes to win medals when they can't even perform their simple task of shooting free quarters.

A disappointed Philippine Sports Commission chair Richie Garcia pointed this out recently as he bewailed the athletes' failure to keep their shooting quarters inside the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex turf and clean.

"How can you perform well if you stay out and sleep in that kind of environment?" said Garcia after watching the rounds at the RSSC recently with his commissioners to check on the facilities and living conditions of the athletes.

"They have to maintain a certain level of cleanliness," added Garcia. "Athletes who don't follow the rules will immediately be thrown out of the quarters after a second offense."

Garcia, at the same time, ordered the complete renovation of the athletes' quarters scattered inside the two-hectare training facility considered main athletes quarters.

Garcia said the 200 athletes in the RSSC quarters will have to strictly adhere to the new policy after all the rooms have been refurbished.

Athletes who are negligent will suffer in the national team for they will be barred from staying in the quarters," he said.

Garcia said most of the rooms are in a state of disrepair, unkempt and crowded, with some having poor ventilation and teeming with mosquitoes.

He said that each room, which used to have eight to 10 occupants, should have no more than four.

Commissioner Chito Loyzaga said the agency will soon advance disbursements the case of and oversee the repairs on the dormitories.

"We're trying to get people who will be included in the team," said Loyzaga. "We will set aside a specific amount for the renovation."

Gogo powers St. Clare shutout of UE

BETH GOGO'S Gogo scoring in seconds to event, St. Clare College kept its unsupported of the lead by blanking University of the East yesterday at the resumption of the National Collegiate Billiards League at the Star Billiards Center in Quezon City.

Coming off a three-week respite, the Saints showed no signs of rust as Gogo, playing in 8-ball doubles for the first time with Alexer Castillo, proved too hot to handle for the UE pair of Jana Antolin and Deborah Cruz.

The Saints needed to score only 5-0 finishing to raise their total to 32 points, two ahead of by Eastern U and Philippine Maritime Institute.

"I'm still trying to improve my game so that if we fall short, I can easily adjust to our need," said Gogo in Filipino.

After Gogo's 11-game winning streak in 9-ball was halted by HSU's Andrei Ilok last Dec. 19, Castillo took over his spot and outpowered Thelma Sarsaren, 7-2. The Saints' Venus Marasco then humbled Antolin in their 10-ball battle in the most supported by Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, Accel and Magna Billiards Stable.

In other matches, PSU posted a 2-1 victory over Lyceum, while the PMI Admirals swept Adamson.

Chris Vincent Mercenas romped Juan Franco Cupid, 7-3, in 9-ball and Trojan Troy Ideanan humbled Eugene Gavit, 7-4, in 10-ball. Rafael Gallo and Rashed Sevan completed the shutout with a 5-3 crushing of Cupid and Lovit in 8-ball doubles.

Also posting shutout wins were Jonathan Ivan Lorenzo, Jeffrey Ramos and Sun Bede which dobbered Troy Ideanan Mandaluyong, University of Manila and La Salle, respectively.

With Ian Sebastian College and Cyrene Baculao University failing to show up, Lyceum and Philippine Merchant Marine picked byes in the tournament organized by Bobcat Lanot, Perry Mercado of Bagay Promotions and Jonathan Uy of the Magna Billiards Stable.

New Azkals coach gets PFF nod

By Cedrik P. Tupas

THE SPORTSTREET of Sweetman coach Hans Michael Weiss as coach of the national team has the full backing of the Philippine Football Federation.

PFF president Mariano "Nonong" Araneta said yesterday said the decision to replace Simon McMenemy was justified because of Weiss' credentials and the Euro-trained coach's knowledge of the Filipino mentality for him to be eligible to coach for the Asian Football Confederation Challenge Cup.

It could mean an equivalent of a "B" license to be eligible to handle a national side in an AFC tournament. McMenemy doesn't have the equivalent of a "B" coaching license from FIFA, the European football governing body.

Azkals manager Dan Palami announced the hiring of Weiss Saturday night, after a three-day visit to Frankfurt where he was also to serve as assistant coach for the German Football Association (DFB).

Palami said the DFB had recommended the hiring of Weiss, who was coach of Hessenliga Under 17 side while serving as the national federation's technical director.

"We wanted to maximize the support from the DFB," said Palami, who has apologized to McMenemy for announcing the decision without informing him earlier.

Palami was supposed to talk to McMenemy before making the announcement, but news of the new coach leaked all over social networking sites, forcing the team manager to announce the hiring of Weiss on national TV.

A reliable source said the Philippines will be receiving a grant of $100,000 soon from the DFB.

"Any aid for Philippine football is welcome," Araneta said.

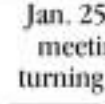
Araneta said with the new coach in place, the Azkals should already start preparing for the AFC Challenge Cup qualifying series against Mongolia next month.

"The DFB has the full backing of our national team manager who has been instrumental in bringing the Azkals to where they are now," said Araneta. "This Poland league school is the best for the team."

Araneta also expressed confidence that Weiss, a native of Dortmunde, Germany, who also had stints with the Germany Football Association and internships at Real Madrid in Spain, Arsenal in England and River Plate and FC Kaiserslautern in Germany, can take the team to greater heights.

"We have it up to the new coach of our team," Araneta said. "I think that the new coach has good credentials. I think he can do a much better job."

Jan. 25 PBA meeting a turning point



THE PBA meeting on Jan. 25 is being anticipated by the media and fans alike as it will decide many important issues.

Part of the subjects on the agenda are engaging from a fan's perspective.

The issue of the TV contract is pretty much a group decision on who offers the league the best deal and marketing opportunities.

Since the owners and executives of the PBA teams are some of the best manufacturing and service leaders in the country, they can be expected to come up with what they feel is the best offer in terms of the league.

As long as the fans have their games on TV, they'll be fine.

The issue of whether the PBA is a amateur or marketing division can be decided once the new contract is adjudicated. The board of governors have to work together to make both the PBA product and its marketing blend so that the league and the fans both benefit.

• • •

The two other items are the PBA venue and the national team.

The issue of having a PBA venue is probably as old as the league itself. When I was still working in advertising three decades ago, I saw a slide presentation (no Power Point yet in those days) on a proposal for the league to have its own home.

The benefits of having its own venue outweigh the disadvantages of continuously renting venues. The PBA will be able to control its schedule without having to deal with the dates that have been already committed by venues to other productions.

It will be able to host banner games of its activities from the rookie camps to the draft, the All-Star games to the end of season awards presentations.

There will always be something to do in a PBA-owned venue. Its own schedule will be loaded so that there might not be room for other productions to rent it for concerts or large assemblies.

Keep in mind that teams may have to practice there as well. A own venue, by the way, will also be a key selling feature for a reorganized marketing plan for the league.

The remaining card to be played in this project is to initially get a team to start the project rolling and seeing it through.

Feasibility studies have already been done in the past and to iterate the location, access to public transportation, parking and more importantly, financing have been addressed.

These studies may have to be dug up then a file somewhere to serve as a template for future moves on this project.

• • •

On the national team, the PBA has stepped up generously through the years with support and players for international participation.

The league has allowed many like Sinthers, Considine, the way-too-many national squad that had some of the best young players of the 1980s bottled up by Filipinos with American roots, to play in tournaments.

The league has not been averse to pitching in for flag and country.

It seems perfectly all right to allow the Jimer Gilas squad to play as a regular participant in the next tournament. Results of games played with them should be part of the win-loss columns.

The best support the PBA can give the national squad is for its teams to play in contests against Jimer Gilas because the games will matter in the standings.

PHEDENCE Hongira of Kenya powers his way unopposed to the finish line of the 3rd Subic International Marathon.

Kenyans rout Subic Marathon rivals; 'Vertek' rules 21K

THE UNLISTED Kenyan contingent continued its dominance of the Subic International Marathon yesterday with Frederick Mongira clocking the men's 42K race yesterday at the Bonny Field inside the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority.

With Eduardo "Vertek" Buenaventura opting to compete in the 21K race, Mongira pestered on the absence of a built of a local threat as he crushed two hours, 23 minutes and 07 seconds to lead a 1-2-3 finish for the Kenyans.

Ethiel Ikering settled for second place after finishing the race in 2:24:35, just seven seconds ahead of Daniel Kattup.

Mongira, who pocketed the top prize of P20,000, joined marquised singing winner Nelson Ebrus Bataldo and 2005 champion Vincent Kipchirchir Chepsiror as Kenyans who ruled this international event.

More than one hour

Competing in a marathon for the first time in the country's another Kenyan, Erick Peyyen nailed the women's race in 2:35:58 more than an hour quicker than his closest rival.

BUENAVISTA

Buenaventura, as expected, reigned supreme in the 21K in 1:10:07 while Jonathan Ayuban Jr. topped the 10K race division in 1:13:58.

The race was backed by Smart Sports, 100 Plus Sports Drink, Summit Drinking Water, Deuter, Total Fitness, Subic Bay Zone, Cuna, Global Destiny Cable, Hydrosport, Oneclique and Ian Ah-3 PM with Subic Beach Suites and their sisters in rejoicing partners.

Cedrik P. Tupas

Xavier posts 4th straight victory, grabs lead

San Sterling: Xavier (4-0), 8 Jose Catholic School (8-3), Juan Esteban (2-0), Zeng Sui Sun (6-0, 8, Stephen's (1-0), Jesse Christian Gregg (7-4) Del Pilar (3-1).

XAVIER SCHOOL chose another solid all-around game from Arian Teng and Ryles Lao as another in Asia Catholic School, 89-50, in a rematch of last year's finals and take the solo lead in the Group Metro Manila Tiong Lian Basketball Association tournament Saturday at the Chiang Kai Shek College gym.

Coming off a 1:04-74 romp over Grace Christian College Wednesday, the 6-foot-1 Teng finished with 26 points and 16 boards as the Soldier Builders rolled to their fourth straight victory.

Lao tallied 24 points while the hard-working Donnel Gog chipped in 11.

The win enabled Xavier School to retain its winning run to 23, including sweeps of the past two seasons. The loss was the first for St. Jude in the games.

Teng also got the better of his counterpart with St. Jude's Jamie Lloyd, who was held to just nine markers.

In other games, Chiang Kai Shek College earned a runaway 95-43 decision over Grace Christian College while Hope Christian High School routed St. Stephen's High School, 67-39.

With their wins, Hope Christian and Chiang Kai Shek College rose to 3-2.

CCEC's Alexis Nicolas burned five triples to finish with 17 points and earn the Player Player of the Game award. Also shining for the Blue Dragons were Paul Sibanta, who added 13 markers and Carlo Yuang and John Nepter who combined for 22 points.

Jimmy Garcia posted 16 points and five assists to lead Hope Christian.

Mango Tee stakes top prizes

FOUR PROMISSM, stars from Mindoro, three golf carts and a lot of other exciting prizes are up for grabs in the 23th edition of the Mango Tee member-guest tournament of the Alabang Country Club slated for Jan. 31 to Feb. 5.

The 360 members and guests who have secured slots for the much-awaited six-day event will all have a shot at the hole-in-one and tournament prizes worth at least P5 million in keeping with a tradition that has made the Mango Tee one of the country's most attended club tournaments.

Co-presenters Philippine Shell, Smart Infinity and Pascale Motors have joined hands for another successful staging of the event with the Mango Tee committee headed by chair Martin Lorenzo and vice chair Dennis Hernandez making sure all bases are covered.

Mitsubishi Motors Phils. Inc. and Greenstars are providing the cars for the hole-in-one on all four par-3s while Club Car, Yeti Co./Titus Trophy and Ian's Pizza/Tostados are handling the prize package with their carts.

Prize practice rounds for guests have begun and will be on offer until Jan. 28 on weekdays except holidays. Former President Fidel V. Ramos and AGO president Inda Morales will be on hand for the opening ceremonials on Jan. 30, formally ushering in the tournament proper.

Golfstore, Stone Cop., Dany Pete Phils., Bellevieu, 109 Assets, Thrills, Links and Gatorade are the major sponsors.

Tatap bares 2011 grassroots plans

TABLE TENNIS Association of the Philippines (Tatap) president Atty. Antonio Tuviera Jr. has assigned Ting Gutierrez to manage the 2011 training program to assemble a competitive national team.

Gutierrez assured no pay to plans an effective grassroots program for boys and girls.

He said Tatap will concentrate on the development of the 23-, 17- and 14-under boys and girls divisions to prepare the future national players for competition in regional and international meets.

Tatap is also planning to have a Chinese coach to train the national team, said Gutierrez.

The Tatap board of members is also planning to put a training site in Marikina City aside from its national training.

Gutierrez, also a current national player and Williams has already talked with sponsors about the training in China for young players.

Time for Manny to pick an opponent as he pleases

INSIDE SPORTS

RANDY ARUTAHIKU

WHILE WE personally would have liked to see Manny Pacquiao fight Juan Manuel Marquez a third time just to settle the records and find out Golden Boy Promotions Richard Schaefer and Oscar De La Hoya, we have to go on our own personal predetermination to do so.

Marquez, Schaefer and De La Hoya continue to claim that despite four knockdowns in two fights, Marquez still won.

To begin with, we have to appreciate what Pacquiao has done for the sport of boxing and most especially for the Philippines and Filipinos.

He has brought to untold joy and helped restore our country's image in the boxing arena of the world.

Pacquiao has endeared himself to millions not just in his homeland but around the world and, in That Prime Minister Hibiki said last year, Pacquiao is not just a hero of the Philippines—he is a hero of Asia.

In short, he was embraced by the entire continent as one of its own.

In the United States, he commands all undisputed following from pay-per-view aficionados to people who love sport in general and have warmed to his engaging manner.

He has earned the distinction of being recognized as a crossover star.

Every single sports magazine, internet boxing site, channels such as CNN and ESPN and the prestigious Boxing Writers Association of America have seen him be his one worth —a champion of unquestionable achievements.

While all of us have our own thoughts on who he should fight, we need to realize that a Fighter like Manny has an inherent right to choose who his opponent should be.

We also need to realize that he has had two hard fights against Miguel Cotto and Antonio Margarito and absorbed some painful blows from both men who were much bigger and heavier in fight time.

The accepted practice is for a fighter, most of all a champion, to take on a potentially easier opponent to give him a breaking spell.

Whether Shane Mosley will be an easier opponent remains to be seen.

Rick Habeck, who was Manny's trainer when he won the WBC flyweight title from Chatchai Sasakul, finished, believes Mosley can be a difficult proposition in the early rounds as he did when he beat Floyd Mayweather Jr. in the third round of their fight last year but that Pacquiao should prevail in the end.

Mosley may well be the most technically proficient fighter to face Pacquiao, and while he cannot surely match the speed and the movement of Manny, he is certainly faster than Margarito or Cotto and probably hits just as hard.

He showed this when he hammered Margarito so late in a championship TKO after beating De La Hoya twice when "The Golden Boy" was in his prime.

To be fair to Mosley, he has achieved so much for himself as well as for us as Filipinos.

Maybe in time he is to give him a break and let him enjoy the privileges of earning more good money by fighting someone other than an opponent we all dislike.

With Mayweather in no mood to fight Manny and a more inclined to take on women, children and seniors (punch and with an really viable and exciting opponent standing out, perhaps we should recognize Pacquiao's right of choice and not only think of our own desires.

SPORTS
Editor Teddyboy G. Molmisa
Assistant Editor Francis T. J. Dohoa

Rose rises, lifts Bulls past Celts

CHICAGO—Derrick Rose scored 36 points as the Chicago Bulls cooled off the hot form of the Boston Celtics with a 90-79 win in the NBA on Saturday.

Rose set career highs for free throws made and attempted with a 13-for-19 performance from the line, driving by Rajon Rondo over and over again before usually downing contact from one or more of Boston's big men. Rondo and Antawan O'Neal each fouled the game ninth free both and Shaquille O'Neal fouled out.

Carlos Boozer added 22 points and 10 rebounds for the Bulls.

Paul Pierce had 21 points to lead Boston, which had won four straight before missing into the Bulls.

In Dallas, the Orlando Magic extended the NBA's longest active winning streak to nine games with a 117-107 whipping of the injury-depleted Mavericks.

Dwight Howard had 22 points and 13 rebounds, and Jason Richardson scored 20 points for Orlando, which rallied from a 14-point, first-half deficit.

In Oklahoma City, Kevin Durant scored 48 points as the Thunder avenged a loss in Memphis earlier this week by running back the Grizzlies, 149-146.

Durant eclipsed 40 points for the second time in two weeks, hitting a pair of free throws and then a jumper from the left elbow after Memphis had pulled within two in the final 2 minutes.

Russell Westbrook added 22 points and 11 assists for the Thunder.

In Houston, Yao Ming scored 32 of his 27 points in overtime as the Utah Jazz rallied from yet another double-digit deficit to a 103-99 victory over the slumping Rockets.

Al Jefferson had 24 points and 13 rebounds for the Jazz, who have won back-to-back 12 times this season after trailing by at least 10 points.

Luis Scola had 24 points and 10 rebounds for the Rockets, who have lost five in a row.

Utah traded by so many as 16 points but held Houston on 13 field goals after halftime to close the gap.

In Atlanta, Josh Smith scored 14 of his 27 points in the fourth quarter as the Hawks rallied for the Indiana Pacers, 108-95.

Joe Johnson added 24 points for the Hawks, who have won four straight.

Danny Granger scored 38 for the Pacers, who seemed to lose focus after coach Jim O'Brien's technical beef in the third quarter. Indiana never led and has lost three straight.

In Auburn Hills, Michigan, Austin Daye made a tying three-pointer with 3.5 seconds left in regulation and Detroit went on to top Philadelphia, 112-109, in overtime.

AP

CHICAGO'S quintuther playmaker Derrick Rose goes up for the basket against Boston big man Jermaine O'Neal. Rose played a personal win as the Bulls shocked the Celtics. AP

Europe rally denies Asia Royal Trophy

SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA—Europe dominated Sunday's singles matches to produce an unlikely comeback over Asia and defend its Royal Trophy title with an overall 9-7 victory at the Black Mountain Golf Club.

Asia needed 2 1/2 points from the eight singles matches to clinch the win but the European backed Darren Clarke and Lee Westwood to the eight matchups with the other two all-square.

Asia had led 6-2 going into the final day.

"While the scores are lead by Saturday, I didn't expect to lose," Asia captain Jeo Gimki said. "But I realized the difficulty of match play it could change very fast."

Peter Hanson of Sweden gave Europe a good start, fighting back from two down to win nine of the next 10 holes, beating Liang Wen-chong 3 and 6.

"It's been a good day for me," Hanson said. "Liang's early birdies really woke me up to play my best."

Rhys Davies of Wales, Fredrik Andersson Hed of Sweden and European playing captain Colin Montgomerie also picked up wins to leave the series tied at 8 1/2. After Hanson, Swedish duo of Andersson Hed handed the last hole to Ladine Ine match against Hah Seung-yul of South Korea.

Thongchai 17-year-old Jhirnon Maneewan then put Europe in the lead for the first time by beating Shunsuke Sonoda of Japan 1 up. Jamie Hill looked like Jeev Milkha Singh of India and Thongchai Jaidee of Thailand might emulate the situation for Asia.

Nicholas Martin of Spain made an easy tap-in to beat Singh to clinch the victory for Europe. AP

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Gomez places 3rd in Vietnam

Final standings: 1 Lenlie—7 ½ (Chess); 2 Mary Grace, G.B.—6 Samuel (Philippines); 3-4 Jose Fernando, R.C. Young Jae (Korea), W. Elmer Gomez, G. Xie (China), 4-7 G. Bernard (Philippines), 5 ½ (wins); 5 Salvador (Philippines), 5 Liu (China); 8-9—4 Zhao (China), 2 Sang (Vietnam), 1 Manoj (Cruz); 9 Lu (China), 0 Jiawaking (Philippines), 9 ½ Hoa (Vietnam), 0 ½ Ha (Vietnam), 8 ½ Song (Vietnam), 0 ½ Ha (Vietnam), 8 ½ Song (China), 8 Elmer (Philippines), 7 ½ Ying (Vietnam), 1 ½ Ha (Vietnam), 0 ½ (Philippines), 5 Nguyen (Philippines), 46 Tan (China), 6 ½ Ha (Vietnam).

VIETNAM—Grandmaster John Paul Gomez of the Philippines forced to defeat GM Nguyen Ngoc Truong Son of Vietnam to clinch solo third place in the 2011 HD Bank Cup Open chess championship at the Ben Thanh hotel here Sunday.

The 24-year-old Gomez, who played with the black pieces, finished the nine-round competition with 6.5 points on five wins, three draws and one loss.

He also drew with GM Qian Meng of China in the penultimate round last Saturday.

GM Yu Yangyi of China, who snapped Gomez's five-game winning streak with a draw in the sixth round, and GM Wei Yang of China, who trounced FM Nguyen Duc Hue of Vietnam, shared first place with seven points.

Yu, however, bagged the title by virtue of a higher tiebreak score.

Hilbi Gomez in third to seventh places with 6.5 points were top seed GM Le Quang Liem of Vietnam, Truong Son, Dinh Wang and qualified Ha Dinhtuc of China.

In behind Gu point, was Yu in their top-board encounter. Zhao, second-board Cao Sang of Vietnam and Ha humbled IM Oliver Dimabuhig of the Philippines to catch up with the frontrunners in the fourth to last tournament hosted by the Vietnam Chess Federation.

IM Oliver Barbosa demolished Wang Chen of China and GM Roland Salvador crushed GM To Hoan Thang of Vietnam to lead two other players in a six-way tie for eighth to 13th places on 6 points. Salvador, who became the country's reserve GM last year, downed Indonesian WGM Irene Kharisma Sukandar.

GOMEZ

Air Force booters lead UFL-LBC Final 4 cast

By Cedrif P. Tupaz

LEAGUE CHAMPION Air Force overcame a sluggish start to down Navy 4-3, yesterday and forge a semifinal duel with powerhouse Union FC in the United Football League-LBC Cup at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex.

Global Steadmont also advanced to the Last Four after a 1-0 victory over Stallion.

One of the teams that outright entered its squad during the off-season, Global will play Army for a ticket slot on Sunday.

Army teased on a hat-trick from Ibrahim Ishaya to smash Sta-ntando, 4-1, in an earlier match.

Union thrilled Manila Southerne Only, 2-1, on first-half goals from Ivo Nunez and Idris Dhiaus.

Nigerian Gomes Ogunjobi scored the only goal for Global, pounding on a through ball from Ayi Kwamaou in the 26th minute.

Global survived the absence of midfielder Saulwin Gi-Habibi in the second half, after the skipper was sent off in the 64th minute for elbowing Stallion defender Aaron Cordova.

Criticized by coach Edwin Cubalila as ballless for their lackluster play in the first 45 minutes, the defenders responded with two goals in the first seven minutes of the second half to assert control.

Bodifer Villran gave Steve a slunk lead in the 52nd minute when he pounced on a rare counter attack.

But Harold Bayron equalized from the penalty spot three minutes into the second half after Villran fouled Jan Azaneta was fouled in the box by Ivo Villareal.

Cuambot bows to undefeated Thai rival

FERNY CUAMBOT (now his) to win the WBC international minimumweight silver title, losing by technical decision to Thailand's undefeated Wanthang Sitmuy-sithor at the Central Stadium in Nakhon Phanom, Thailand recently.

The fight was stopped at 1:51 on the fifth round with all three judges scoring the fight for the Thai. Two judges had Wanthang ahead 50-45 while the third judge also favored the Thai, 49-46.

The Thai won the unanimous title with a unanimous 12-round tested decision over Jayson Flotero on Dec. 25, 2008, and defended the title with another decision over Rosalio Fernandez in April. He also won a rematch with Flotero in August.

Wanthang improved to 32-0 with 8 KOs while Cuambot, who was coming off an April decision loss to Rogen Lason and July 2, dropped to 7-1-1.

Rumelo Marfil Saavedra

Prima badminton draws huge field

MORE THAN 1,000 players led by national player Jasper Bacarra are expected to compete in the 2011 Prima Pasco International Badminton Open on February 5, 6, 12 and 13 at the Pamaranaque in Chino Roces Ave., Makati City.

Event chair Alex S. Lim confirmed the participation of Eastern in the tournament.

"I am confident that we are getting the nation's top elite players competes," said Lim, who also expects other big names like Mahfoiz Alfatih and Paul Vivas to join the open events.

"I am also hopeful to seeing our strong of talented and upcoming youth players dropping it out on the courts."

Other events are men's doubles open, mixed doubles open, junior singles open (boys and girls) and women's doubles. (level A, level 1). Other players will play at their respective skill levels: B,C,D,E and G (beginner) and age groups.

The bowling dates are slated on Jan. 9, 15, 22 and 29 also at Newwmark.

The deadline of submission of entries for men's and women's singles is on Jan. 29, while Feb. 7 is the deadline for the mixed doubles and junior events.

Tournament directors for the event are Ilene Reyes and Jessie Alonso. For details, call Ruby Amador (09152955063), Aurea Lee (09322789227), Joy Bhatlao (09169674223) and Ory Pagdilao (09285870448).

Editor Raoul D. Mancao • Assistant Editor Corrie S. Mariano

BUSINESS

Gov't to weed out tax cheats, smugglers

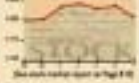
INDICATORS

PESO-DOLLAR RATE (Jan. 7, 2011)

44.15

STOCK MARKET (Jan. 7, 2011)

14.73



Sideways trading seen

LOCAL P10082 unit sees trading with caution this week as investors await fresh incentives to return to the equities market in a big way.

The stock market opened the first week of 2011 positively but ended flat as profit-taking prevailed that as profit-taking prevailed.

The main share Philippine Stock Exchange index ended at 4,202.21.

BIR, Customs to cross-check importers, taxpayers lists

By Ronnel W. Domingo

FINANCE SECRETARY Cesar V. Purisima said the Aquino administration would intensify its campaign against tax evaders and smugglers as it expects to spend hundreds of billions of pesos more than it could earn.

For starters, he said the Bureau of Internal Revenue and of Customs will be comparing the list of top 5,000 importers and top 5,000 taxpayers to determine and investigate their tax deficiencies," Purisima said.

Wednesday has estimated the budget deficit for 2010 at P325 billion and expects another deficit of P260 billion this year.

"From now on, the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Bureau of Customs will be comparing the list of top 5,000 importers and top 5,000 taxpayers to determine and investigate their tax deficiencies," Purisima said.

"If you are among the top importers in the Philippines, then it follows that you would likewise be on the list of top taxpayers at the BIR," the finance chief said. "We will watch out for those who, for example, may be paying the correct customs duties but are avoiding payment of taxes at the BIR."

He added that if there were a violation of customs laws, there was a big chance that tax evasion was also being committed.

"The BIR and Customs will have to closely coordinate so that we make smuggling and tax evasion impossible and difficult, respectively," he said.

For 2011, the BIR is tasked to raise P940 billion while Customs is mandated to collect P320 billion.

Official at both agencies said they expected to have raised their respective 2010 targets of P807 billion and P289 billion.

To help raise collections, the BIR last year implemented its latest tax abatement program from which it raised some P5 billion.

Under Revenue Regulations No. 9-2010 dated Sept. 15, which spells out the guidelines for the program, the abatement relieves delinquent taxpayers of surcharges or compromise penalties on the facility to file tax returns or having filed ones that do not reflect appropriate amounts.

For its part, Customs is offering incentives to importers who adhere to ethical business practices by offering faster processing time for shipments.

CONT'D B7

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■ **'Open skies' not** for all foreign airlines /B5

■ **BOI targeting** P254B in investments this year /B9

■ **Bank lending** rates declined in 3rd quarter /B13

Vehicle sales up 27% in 2010; Toyota keeps lead

By Abigail L. Ho

SALES of motor vehicles increased 27.2 percent in 2010 to 368,490 units, demolishing the previously set record of 161,000 units in sales to 19% and giving the industry reasons to bullish this year.

According to documents from the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines Inc. and the Truck Manufacturers Association, the number of vehicles sold in December 2010 alone came up to 33,749 units, a 1.1 percent improvement from the 33,996 units sold in the same month the year before.

Total commercial vehicle sales last year were placed at 300,798 units, growing 27.4 percent from 2009's 46,230 units. This segment accounted for 65.2 percent of overall sales.

The light commercial vehicle sub-segment—composed of pickup trucks, vans, compact wagons and full-size sports utility vehicles—accounted for the bulk of commercial vehicle sales during the period at 69,754 units in 2010, up 32.3 percent from the 52,738 units registered the year before.

Asian utility vehicles added another 56,905 units in sales, a 11.9 percent jump from 2009's 39,202 units.

Passenger car sales also registered a 27-percent growth to 68,691 units in 2010 from the previous year's 46,228 units.

Campi president Elizabeth Lee said this year was expected to be another good year for the auto industry due to a number of reasons: sustained business and consumer confidence, great domestic product growth, stable foreign exchange environment, positive forecasts for overseas OFW remittances and manageable inflation.

FINANCE B3

There's a 'new MVP'

SAN MIGUEL Corp. may have been stricken off the menu of blue chips that comprise the Philippine Stock Exchange index but that hasn't prevented the diversifying conglomerate from becoming a Solaire Center-Lately stellar stock market performer. The San Miguel group has no (not recently) edged out its "throwing" the First Dutch group, as the most valuable player in the counter market.

Parent firm San Miguel itself has now emerged as the most valuable stock in the local market for the first time in a very long time, maybe since the wireless telephone boom catapulted Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. to the top. That was, of course, before San Miguel's recent recovery. San Miguel is also trading its preferred shares, a one valued by the market at P481 billion versus PL277-P471.75 billion, to the those who had taken their cue from Series 6500, chief Wireless Garcia's buying offer of around P1.2M and were smiling at the P71 level, barring the same shares now valued at P173 is a cause for party-ing.

San group, San Miguel, affiliated stocks now have a combined market cap of around P1.04 trillion as against the P1.04 trillion combined worth of companies led by the First Pacific group, which, however, was the first breach the P1-trillion mark around September last year.

San Miguel's run-up was boosted by announcements that the company would widen its public float by 20 percent early this year, which has attracted a number of foreign brokerage houses to begin coverage of the erstwhile under-appreciated conglomerate. The consolidation of the power business, for one, is soon becoming a major growth driver as San Miguel completes its transformation from a food-based to a power-based conglomerate.

As of Friday's close, among the biggest contributors to group-wide outsized upon flagship beer and brewery San Miguel Brewery Inc. (P438.42 billion), Petron Corp. (P155.96 billion) and San Miguel Pure Foods Co. Inc. (P133.33 billion).

Apart from benefiting from plans to widen the public float of each stock, each company has its own story. Petron Corp., for one, has gained momentum from the regained increase in market share when the major oil pipeline used by its competitors was shut down.

Buyback in the works

P food and beverage giant RFM Corp. is to be believed, three its shares listed on the Philippine Stock Exchange should be trading at much higher than the current level of P1.77 each.

To help prove its point, RFM management has proposed a buyback program to the board as it believes that the shares are "undervalued." There are no details yet, but the proposed program has already been tabled for discussion and the one and ends of the buyback scheme should be revealed soon.

Last year, RFM's share traded at a low of 80 centavos a share and a high of P2.21. RFM closed 2010 at P1.74. Its four stocks are the shares really worth, according to RFM? The company is not really saying.

Then-Jessa Dumbay

Equally culpable?

YES, the Lopez-owned First Philippine Industrial Corp. is expectedly for the fuel pipeline leak that has disrupted the flow of hundreds of residents of the Ultra Tower Condominium along the South Superhighway in Makati City (and thousands more of Barangay Bangkal residents who were unable to usher in the new year with fireworks).

But some technical personnel on site are wondering if there is some degree of culpability to be ascribed elsewhere as well.

According to our source familiar with PFIC's maintenance, the owners of the Ultra Tower condo continue to refuse entry to the auditors at a third party firm hired by the Lopez firm to take a closer look at the building's multi-level basement.

And they have a theory why: The entire Makati area was, many decades ago, one vast marshland with wet, swampy soil all around. As such, all buildings that are built in Makati are required to have water-tight basements.

If petroleum from the leaking PFIC pipe found its way into the Ultra Tower's basement, is the building (and its builders and owners) in violation of the Building Code for having a leaky basement? The technical issue is a just wondering. Dexter L. Lusno

Biz Buzz

By the staff

Union Bank PDEx brand heats up

ANCHE LEO Union Bank has settled against the Securities and Exchange Commission, bank president Victor Valdepeñas clarified in reaction to a previous story on the issue. What the bank has always been against, he said, was signing any contract with Philippine Dealing and Exchange Corp., noting this was "against the bank's principle of good corporate governance."

"We can't pay for services and products that don't have any value to the corporation, to our stockholders and all the stakeholders in the organization. It will create a situation of impropriety and ethical issue as we find the value of PDEx services to be redundant," Valdepeñas said.

He said a superior trading platform in terms of connectivity, analytics and information showing was already being provided by Bloomberg and Reuters. What is happening, he said, is simply a "swapping operation" where trades on the over-the-counter (OTC) market get reported on PDEx through their clearing processes, and in the course of doing so, banks are charged a fee. "It's still an OTC market. The public is being misled to think there's a fixed income exchange. There's none that exists in the Philippines," he said.

"And while they have manifold economic-reform objectives, we find that the market has turned into a monopolistic structure disadvantageous to the investors/registered on its so-called members, which are against the basic rule and basic principle and philosophy of an efficient market, which should be based on free choice of choice on the part of the investors," Valdepeñas pointed out.

He added that the fees were being passed on directly to the investors. "So while they talk of investor protection, investors are being charged. Secondly, there are rules in assembly from the rediscredited many players like the rural banks and thrift banks that can't afford those instruments," he said.

Valdepeñas also said that Ducenbank's former director, Brig. Sergio Apostol, *confirmed the head role in the House committee on banks recently, and that Congress had been holding hearings about PDEx for two years now.* Doris C. Dumlao

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Sideways trading seen

up a meager 5.4 points or 0.83 percent from the last trading week of 2010.

BPI Investments said in their newsletter, "Investors' behavior will likely trend in a wait-and-see attitude pending release of some positive indicators as well as volatility in commodities market."

It noted that action last week was focused on gaining stocks on speculation that investment would expand this year and that some companies might take advantage of the opportunity and consider buying agreements with other foreign partners. On the other hand, BPI securities noted that Asian markets fell on concerns of interest rate and other corporate income reports came out lower than expected.

All Capital Securities analyst Maria Arlyna Sarcon said the sideways trend might persist this week.

"Breaching high levels last year, the PSEi saw prices and consolidate. The index is encountering a resistance at 4,200. Without compelling and new stories to encourage the market and the investors, the PSEi may not easily break this level," Sarcon said.

"Though there is the case, we may still see opportunities in banks that are into leisure and mining operations. Also, the aggressive drive of San Miguel Corp. makes the stock must-interesting; let keep in infrastructure and mining, the industries which will benefit from increased government spending and foreign investments, brings SMC to the forefront of advancement," she said.

San Miguel shares have rallied sharply since October last year as investor interest was intensified by plans to unbundle company's public float by 20 percent. Doris C. Dumlao

Philweb to raise P5B

By Dioni L. Lucid

ONLINE TECHNOLOGY firm Philweb Corp. will raise up to P5 billion this year to finance an aggressive overseas and local expansion program that will see it establishing a presence in several less developed Asian countries.

At a special stockholders' meeting called late last week, Philweb chief Rolando "Z" Daggay asked the—and obtained from shareholders—approval to sell primary shares whose proceeds would be used to fund the company's deals abroad.

"Discussions have been ongoing for the last two months, but we have been visited by some international groups to make investments with them," he told the company's stockholders.

He declined to provide more details due to confidentiality restrictions, but noted that the countries that Philweb was considering included Nepal and Sri Lanka—both of which do not have licensed gaming and lottery operations at present.

Daggay explained that Philweb was focusing on countries such as these to maximize the push experienced by the local population for the kind of gaming and lottery services that Philweb provides.

More important, however, the planned share sale—while it will result in a dilution in existing shareholders—is hoped to eventually result in better individual returns as the benefits of the expansion program kick in.

"Despite the dilution, I think shareholders will find that it will be a 'net positive' for them in terms of earnings per share," Philweb vice chair Eric Recto said during a briefing.

Last year, the company obtained a gaming license in the Kingdom of Cambodia where it expected to set up a casino and satellite betting outlets.

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Vehicle ...

From page B1

able inflation rate projections.

The presence of affordable financing packages and the launch of more new vehicle models will likewise push the auto industry's growth this year, she added.

For 2011, the said the industry was expecting growth of 4-5 percent.

In 2010, Toyota Motor Philippines Corp. continued to lead the pack, with sales of 56,666 units or a market share of 21.7 percent.

Landing in second was Mitsubishi Motors Philippines Corp., which secured 19.2 percent of the market on 50,106 sales of 33,422 units.

Hyundai Asia Resources Inc. occupied the third spot with 10,696 units in sales or an 11.5 percent share of the pie. Hyundai's new data showed, however, that the company sold a total of 28,172 units last year.

Business Solved

Technology-Enabled, Real World Training

De La Salle - College of Saint Benilde partners with PLDT, sharing a commitment to quality education

De La Salle - College of Saint Benilde is one of eight select managed networking solutions from PLDT to satisfy the ever-growing bandwidth requirements of their courses through a reliable Internet connection. The school's IT department appreciates PLDT's proactive technical and after-sales support. They also believe in PLDT's capability and to reliable network, all of whom will keep the college at par with educational institutions around the world.

PLDT Vice President and Head of Corporate Relationship Management Javier C. Lagdameo opened the contract signing, very delighted to be doing business with De La Salle once again. At the Alfrisa Room of the CBE Hotel International Conference Center, he remarked on the colleges rapid expansion, "We thank you for entrusting your business with us. We are aware that PLDT plays a significant role in terms of connectivity for your school. We're also aware that in terms of curriculum, College of Saint Benilde is leading in the field of hospitality management, which is one of the growth businesses together with the outsourcing businesses."

Courses such as Animation, Computer Applications, and Multimedia Arts also naturally require a bigger bandwidth. De La Salle - College of Saint Benilde President and Chancellor Br. Ric Franco later shared his thoughts on the partnership with PLDT, on how recent events have shown "how we have come to rely on technology to be in touch, whatever industry you might be working in."

Br. Ric stressed the importance of working together for the benefit of the students. "It is critical in the delivery of education today that we have a very good system in place. We are happy that PLDT is partnering with us in this endeavor. We need to have this kind of partnership in order for us purely to be able to accomplish our goals. Thank you for the service that you are providing this college, and we look forward to the continuation of this partnership."

Students Can't Wait

De La Salle - College of Saint Benilde, IT Director Arjoon Singson Das elaborated on the value of PLDT technology, honoring this month of the academic "PLDT gives us value for money. We always go for the best service available at the lowest cost." He also talked about meeting the demands of the student population. "Students can't wait. Information has to be available immediately."

Mr. Arjoon Das promises the college will continuously evaluate its course offerings along with their technology consumption. "In DLS-CSB, technology has provided the school a competitive advantage in terms of learning. With the help of technology, our learner-centered education philosophy is coming to reality."

Bubong Pinoy, Serbisyo PubliQo.

Hosts: David R. De la Cruz - Publisher of Real Estate World Magazine, Rajar M. Garcia - Publisher Mass Central Cim G. Sangco/Radyo Inquirer Station Manager and Rosemarie C Baco - President & CEO GPFP Properties Management

A public service program focusing on Housing. Real Estate and other related industry topics is slated to launch its initial broadcast over DZIQ 990 am radio this coming January 15. The One hour program will be anchored by Rose Baco, President and CEO of PREF Events Management and VP External Affairs of the Chamber of Real Estate Builders Association (CREBA). The program will be co-hosted by Roger Garcia, Publisher of News Central and Cornel dela Cruz, Publisher of Real Estate World Magazine.

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BUSINESS

EIKI
BRAIN

'Open skies' not for all foreign airlines

CAB exec says gov't to seek reciprocity

By Paolo G. Montecillo

THE GOVERNMENT will only open up the country's skies to airlines from countries that give the same privilege to carriers from the Philippines, a ranking aeronautical official said.

Deputy Executive Director Rosvenir Reyes-Arcilla of the Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB) said the upcoming implementation of a liberalized air rights policy in the country would not put local airlines at a disadvantage.

He said the government would ensure other countries would also have to liberalize their own air rights regimes if their airlines were to enjoy the benefits of "open skies" in the Philippines.

"Whether it's stipulated in the Executive Order or not, we will make sure that there is reciprocity in the agreements with other countries," Reyes-Arcilla said.

The official was referring to the EO that President Aquino is scheduled to issue soon, putting in place an open skies regime in the Philippines.

CAB officials worked closely with Malacañang and the Department of Finance in the drafting of the new EO. The new order will open up the airports of Manila, Clark, Cebu and Davao to increased traffic from foreign airlines.

This will create access for foreign carriers to secondary airports in the country currently dominated by foreign airlines. The number of flights to destinations will depend only on the availability of space in local airports instead of pre-determined entitlements agreed upon by countries.

"Reciprocity] is a given so that local carriers will have the same opportunities to cop foreign markets," Perchmarcia said in a recent interview. "That's part of our mandate. So we to it that our airlines have the same opportunities."

The implementation of an "open skies" policy has been a source of worry for local airlines because this new regime will allow for the easier entry of foreign airlines into the Philippine market.

Perchmarcia said that while the CAB would ensure that the playing field remained level, market forces would still be the deciding factor on whether or not local airlines benefit or lose out due to the new rules.

He also noted that a liberalized policy would not be the only factor that would bring in more foreign airlines and increased competition—into the Philippines.

He said the ease and cost of doing business in the Philippines would still be the biggest factor that companies abroad were likely to consider.

RECIPROCITY is the key for other countries to enjoy the benefits of "open skies" in the Philippines.

MVP vows to pursue Clark airport project

MANDAUAN Ahmed S Pangilinan has expressed his intention to get seriously involved in the development of the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport in Pampanga.

This will include the renovation of it biggest passenger terminal as well as the development of a high-speed railway system that will cut the travel time between the former US military base and Manila to a half-hour train ride from a two-hour drive today.

Clark International Airport Corp. (CIAC) president and CEO Victor Lorenzo said Pangilinan paid a visit to the DMIA on the first working day of the New Year.

"During his visit, we apprised him of the developments and the coming of new airlines, creating Clark as a hub," Lorenzo said.

Aside from being the chair of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., Pangilinan also manages several interests of Hong Kong's First Pacific Co. Ltd. in the Philippines.

These include investments in infrastructure, healthcare and power distribution and generation, all through First Pacific unit Metro Pacific Investments Corp. (MPIC).

Pangilinan had said that a better airport in Clark would be ideal to decongest Manila's terminals. However, there is a need for a high-speed railway system to bridge the 60-kilometer gap between Clark and the country's capital to make investing in the new airport financially viable.

"Growth here could be exponential in the next 2 to 5 years especially that there are companies looking at Clark to make that a hub. That would provide the numbers that he needs to put up a rail system in Clark. He was very positive about it," Lorenzo said.

He added that Pangilinan was looking for foreign groups and international airport operators to assist in the project.

"Pangilinan] said he would be sending a study team here real soon," Lorenzo said. Paolo G. Montecillo

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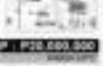

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SBMA approves $125-M wind, solar projects

By Abigail L. Ho

THE SUBIC Bay Metropolitan Authority has approved the construction of a wind farm and solar power facility, worth a combined $125 million, at Mt. Sto. Nino and Redondo Peninsula.

Both projects will be spearheaded by local firm Subic Wind Power Generation Inc. (SWPGI), a subsidiary of China's Sinomen Investments Ltd.

According to SBMA Chair Feliciano Salonga, SWPGI had initially sought the freeport authority's approval to put up and operate a $75-million wind farm in the area.

While conducting onsite inspections of the sites, however, the company decided to also establish a solar power facility, jacking up its required investments to $125 million.

The wind farm will be composed of 25 wind turbines that can yield 50 megawatts (MW) of electricity. The solar power facility is now providing satellite 1.50 200 MW of capacity.

Both projects will occupy about 200 hectares of land at Mt. Sto. Nino and the Redondo Peninsula within Subic.

The wind farm and solar power facility will give jobs to some 150 individuals and provide SBMA with as much as $93,000 in additional revenue through SWPGI's lease of the properties to be occupied by the projects.

Salonga said the establishment of the new renewable energy projects would allow Subic to also provide power to the Luzon grid.

"Subic has long been a net power consumer, but with these projects, we're now entertaining the prospect of Subic as a net power producer," he said. "What makes us more excited about these projects is the fact that both wind and solar power are clean energy. This will also help us reduce the carbon footprint of the Subic Bay Freeport."

SBMA manufacturing and maritime development manager Ronnie Martinez said the freeport authority had likewise negotiated with Suzuya for a share in the carbon credits that the wind and solar power projects would yield.

The amount of carbon credits issued to a project depends on the amount of carbon emissions it displaces or prevents. These credits can then be sold to developed nations, which have emission reduction commitments under the Kyoto Protocol.

Gov't to weed out tax cheats . . .

From page B1

through the so-called Super Green Lane Plus (SGL+).

Customs Commissioner Angelito M. Alvarez said the incentive came in the form of exclusive access to priority lanes that the customs clearance time.

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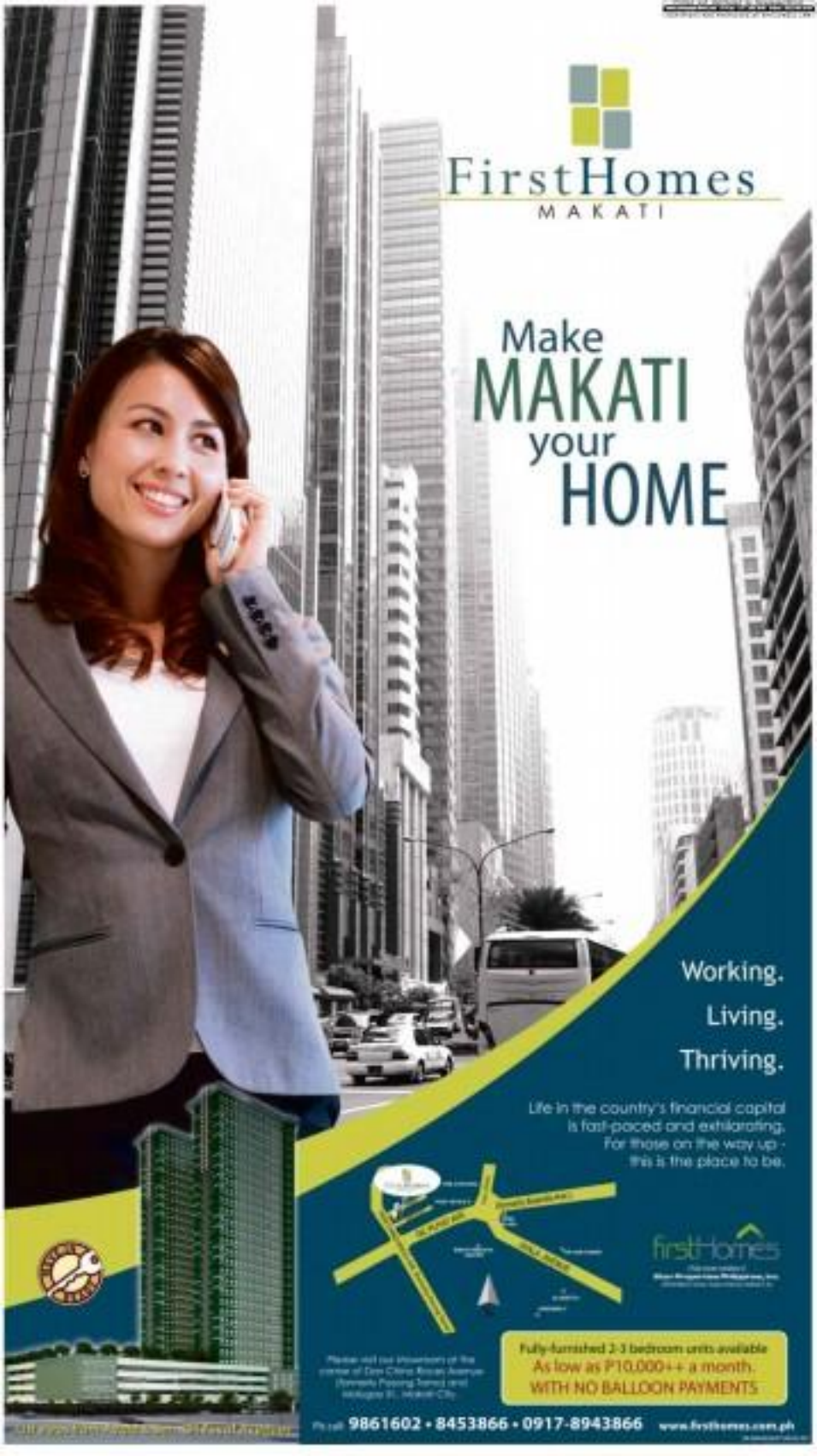
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BUSINESS

BOI targeting ₱254B in investments this year

PPP projects seen boost chances of hitting goal

By Abigail L. Ho

INVESTMENTS REGISTERED with the Board of Investments are seen reaching P254 billion this year, or 16 percent lower than the P301 billion recorded in 2010.

In an interview over the weekend, Trade Undersecretary and BOI managing head Cristino Pacible said the year's lower investment target was due to the removal of independent power producer contracts from the list of projects entitled to fiscal perks.

"Last year, almost 50 percent of our investments came from [IPP administrators]. Since we delisted them, we have to work harder this year to achieve our target," he said.

He said the BOI was banking on various public-private partnership projects to offset the removal of the IPPAs from the agency's preferred investment areas.

IPPAs are qualified independent entities that administer, conserve and manage the contracted energy output of National Power Corp.'s IPP customers, including selling the energy production and/or offering ancillary services.

PSALM had eight to nine Napocor IPP contracts to transfer to private sector IPPAs. The total rated capacity of all IPP contracts to be privatized came up to about 8,252 megawatts.

The BOI last year aimed to hit P267 billion in investments. It managed to surpass this goal by P33 billion.

The achievement of this year's target was hinged mainly on the issuance of the 2011 Investment Priorities Plan (IPP), which the BOI hoped to release by next month, to attract fresh investments.

Eleven general categories were included in the list of preferred investment areas for this year: Agroindustry-agribusiness and fishery resource industries, shipbuilding, mass housing, energy, infrastructure, research and development, green projects, tourism, strategic projects, and public-private partnership projects.

Removed from the roster of projects qualified for incentives were biofuels projects that now fall under the Biofuels Law; fertilizers, biotechnology products and services, labor-intensive production, boat manufacturing, and reclaimed housing.

The mandatory list included those covered by eight existing laws: The Revised Forestry Code of the Philippines, Philippine Mining Act of 1995, Book V Publishing Industry Development Act, Downstream Oil Industry Deregulation Act of 1998, Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000, Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004, Magna Carta for Disabled Persons, and Renewable Energy Act of 2008.

The BOI held a public consultation for the 2011 IPP last Friday and gave stakeholders until Jan. 13 to submit their position papers.

PSALM borrowing ₱25B to service Napocor debts

By Amy R. Borre

THE GOVERNMENT Power Debt Management Office (PDMO) Thursday said it would tap a P25-billion short-term loan facility to help the National Power Corp. (Napocor) service its debt obligations in the first quarter of the year.

PSALM president and chief executive officer Emmanuel Q. Ledesma Jr. told the business that the PSALM board had approved the proposed loan facility to be provided by Land Bank of the Philippines, after opting to postpone another borrowing activity that was supposed to be conducted this year.

To the tune of P9,600 each, the two Napocor IPP contracts to be sold to private sector IPPAs are those of the 600-megawatt (MW) Pagbilao coal-fired power plant in Quezon and the 1,200-MW Masinloc coal-fired power plant in Zambales.

San Miguel energy company to tap overseas bond market

By Doris C. Dumlao

SAN MIGUEL Energy Corp., the power generation holding firm of San Miguel Corp., plans to make a debut on the overseas bond market this week with a maiden debt offering worth up to $500 million.

The company is scheduled to conduct a global roadshow in Manila this week and, later, in London, sources said.

It will be the first company to take advantage of a recent upgrade in Moody's Investors Service's outlook on the Philippine government's bonds.

The unlisted and unrated power generation holding firm aims to raise between $250 million and $500 million from the offering of five-year bonds in the overseas market, San Miguel president Ramon Ang told the business.

Ang added that San Miguel had

Maiden debt offering worth $500M planned

appointed British banking giant HSBC as the lead arranger of this prospective overseas debt deal.

Sources said it might be quite a challenge to bring San Miguel Energy to the overseas debt market as it still did not have a track record as a borrower. The company, however, is seen benefiting from the good credit grade of parent company San Miguel, the recent surge in optimism on San Miguel's power business and the generally favorable environment for Philippine debt deals.

Moody's last week changed its outlook on the Philippine government's Ba1 foreign and local currency bond ratings to positive from stable. A positive outlook means the rating may be raised from its current level of three notches below investment grade in the next 12 to 24 months.

Other global debt watchers Standard & Poor's and Fitch Ratings already rate Philippine sovereign debt at two notches below investment grade. S&P upgraded its rating late last year.

The five-year issue, approximating the most liquid overseas Philippine government bond benchmark, is seen as a good opportunity for San Miguel Energy's maiden foray into the overseas debt market. By answering some of its requirements from the offshore market, the power entity sees avoiding the restrictive single-borrower limit that Philippine banks are required to keep.

The San Miguel group is using funds in line with its transformation from a fund-based into a power-based conglomerate.

SM starting new retail center format

TYCOON HENRY Sy's SM Prime Holdings Inc. is joint-venturing in Buenavitas, Cavite a new shopping center format that seeks to redevelop an existing rundown public market owned by the local government into a pioneering lateral retail complex with stores for the public vendors.

SM Prime Holdings Inc. executive vice president and chief finance officer Jeffrey Lim told reporters that his company would spend at least P500 million for this pilot project, which would be among the seven new local shopping centers that the group would open this year.

The group is planning a P50-billion fresh capital outlay for this year, mostly for the construction of malls.

The seven new shopping malls this year will make available 600,000 square meters of additional retail space under the wan SM mall empire. This will pass on completion to the group leasable space created in 2006 when the company opened five malls, including Mall of Asia which accounted for 600,000 sq.m.

Lim said most of the new mall openings this year would be smaller than the usual 100 shopping centers. Aside from the pilot project in Buenavitas, Cavite, SM Prime is set to open malls in Masinag, Antipolo; San Fernando, Pampanga; Iligan, Pampanga; Consolacion, Cebu; and SM Sasa, Davao.

While the malls to be opened this year are smaller than most of SM's existing malls, they signify SM Prime's increasing persistence into town markets. The move may also pave the way for more joint ventures with local government units (LGUs) on spruicing up public markets into more vibrant retail centers.

For the Buenavitas public market project, SM Prime has signed a contract to put up the mall center based on a long-term lease contract with the LGU.

SM Prime obtained a concession to operate the center for 25 years, renewable for another 25 years. It will pay the local government unit rental for the use of the property.

The Buenavitas shopping area will have a gross leasable space of 60,000 sq.m. It will be ready for opening by the fourth quarter of this year, Lim said.

He said there would be a "wet component" with wet and dry sections for vendors. The ground floor will house a hypermarket with some food shops. The second floor will be for third party tenants and the top floor will be for parking.

Doris C. Dumlao

EDC to issue $300M worth of dollar bonds

By Amy R. Remo

ENERGY DEVELOPMENT Corp., the country's largest producer of geothermal energy, plans to issue dollar-denominated bonds to raise $300 million for the company's capital expenditure requirements this year.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, EDC said its board of directors had approved the management's recommendation for an international dollar bond offering. The final terms, size and timing of the bond issuance, however, will be based on prevailing market conditions at the time of issuance.

"Proceeds from the bond offering are intended to be used to fund the company's growth projects, capital expenditures, debt servicing requirements and other corporate purposes," EDC said in the disclosure.

The Lopez-led firm tapped Deutsche Bank and JPMorgan Securities Ltd. as joint lead managers for the transaction. Upon issuance, the bonds will be listed on the Singapore Exchange Securities Trading Limited (SGX-ST).

EDC did not provide further details for the planned offering.

Over the next few years, EDC said it was targeting to invest $1 billion in geothermal power plants to help it become the top geothermal company in the world.

EDC president Richard B. Tantoco earlier said the company was planning to put up geothermal facilities that could generate a total of 200 megawatts in its concession areas, and a wind farm in Burgos, Ilocos Norte.

According to Tantoco, the company expected to spend as much as $1.5 million to produce a megawatt of geothermal power through these geothermal facilities, and about $2 million per megawatt for its wind power project.

Aside from the $1 billion investment in new power plants, EDC also earmarked a P50-billion fund for its capital expenditure projects for the 2010 to 2015. The amount would be used to rehabilitate existing power plants, conduct further drilling activities and improve the company's facilities.

Tantoco said about P1.2 billion would be used for underground activities and resource development to include drillings, while the remaining P6.9 billion would be earmarked for above-ground activities.

The greenfield, expansion and rehabilitation projects that are expected to be completed by 2015 included the 150-MW Bacman geothermal plants and the 80-MW wind farm in Burgos, Ilocos Norte (2012); the 40-MW Tiwi-ott and 30-MW Maibi geothermal projects (2013); 68-MW Mindanao 3 geothermal project (2014); and the 40-MW Burgos geothermal project and 40-MW Bacman project (2015).

Tantoco said the general target was to increase the company's attributable generating capacity by 38 percent to 1,542 MW within a five- year period starting 2011, from the current 1,116 MW.

Napocor '10 net loss seen down to ₱701M

By Amy R. Remo

STATE-RUN National Power Corp. was estimated to have posted cost loss of P701.5 million in 2010, a huge improvement from the previous year's net loss of P5.67 billion, according to the Department of Budget and Management.

DBM documents showed that Napocor's improved performance last year was largely due to a surge in both the agency's operating and non-operating revenues, which were estimated to reach P39.47 billion in 2010, up from P4.44 billion in 2009.

The revenue increase helped Napocor pay for its expenses last year of P33.17 billion, up from P7.01 billion in 2009. The increase was due to the 70-percent rise in Napocor's maintenance and other operating expenses, which amounted to P9.86 billion, up from P5.8 billion in 2009.

Napocor maintains several smaller power facilities in far-flung areas through its small power utilities group (SPUG). It is mandated to provide electricity to various areas that are not connected to any of the three main grids.

The Napocor's SPUG currently operates 232 generating units with a total generated capacity of about 175 megawatts (MW). It serves 234 inland and isolated grids providing electricity to 47 customers consisting of 39 electric cooperatives, seven local government units and one multipurpose cooperative.

Although most of its power plants have already been sold to the private sector, several many-generating units and independent power producer contracts remained with Napocor under an operation and maintenance agreement with state-owned Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp.

These power facilities included the 246-megawatt Angat hydropower plant, the Agus and Pulangi hydropower complexes in Mindanao and Power Barges 101, 102, 103 and 104...each has a capacity of 132 MW.

Napocor also continues to manage the contract operations of the Caliraya-Botocan-Kalayaan hydropower facilities which can generate over 750 MW, mothballed the 650-MW Malaya thermal power plant; 640-MW Unified Leyte geothermal plants; 440-MW Naga diesel complex; the 200-MW Mindanao coal-fired plant; 52.32-MW Mt. Apo geothermal facilities; the 100-MW facility of Mirant's Hindalum Power Corp.; and the 50-MW plant of Southern Philippines Power Corp.

PSALM borrowing P25B ...

From page B1

for the planned borrowing.

"Once approved by the Monetary Board, which PSALM targets to get this month, we will immediately tap the short-term loan with LandBank, which is payable in one year (and which has) an option to convert into a seven-year term loan," he explained.

Proceeds from the bond-raising activity would help service Napocor's dwindling obligations amounting to ₱1.2 billion. These include a $200 million bond issue that will mature in March this year and ₱400 million worth of floating rate notes due in August next year, Ledesma earlier said.

As of end-2009, Napocor's total liabilities stood at ₱161 billion, PSALM, which was created in 2001, has been tasked not only to handle the privatization of Napocor's generation assets and contracted capacities, but also to close up the power firm's debts.

Last year, PSALM said it was planning to issue peso-denominated bonds in the first quarter of 2011 to raise as much as $250 million.

The company's general liability management program allowed it to either tap the local capital market or engage in debt financing to settle these obligations. Tapping the credit market has become very likely as the government has slowed down the privatization of its remaining energy assets.

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Free bargain

TO THE guys down here in my barangay, the Aquino (Part II) administration seems to be delivering confusing signals regarding the "plunder" case against a former general.

As everybody knows... except perhaps the lawyers at the Palace—the general in the bizarre composition of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, retired Major General Carlos F. Garcia. He allegedly accumulated his deeds of millions of pesos worth of property in the United States during his stint in the military.

Surely the good general did not get all these for free.

The general used to be the comptroller—the officer in charge of watching over the money of the military, whether it was going in or going out. It was his duty to compel the military brass to be a bit ... well, honest.

Remember, that money is not hard earned (an thus no sense) as the government (whether we like it or not)?

And the very same guy who is in control of it all is facing plunder charges!

No wonder, in this country, big time business people are not really in the mood to pay the correct taxes.

Anyway, the ex-general appears set to receive a virtual tap on the wrist as punishment, as long as he admits to some lesser crimes, such as money laundering.

The court reportedly is about to accept such a deal offered by the prosecution (i.e., the government) in Garcia.

Thanks to public outcry against the deal, the Palace boys of our family working leader Bongbong Simeon (aka BS) rode on the public ire by condemning the deal.

For example, Solicitor General Jose Anselmo Cadiz went on record to promise that his office would intervene in the case before the Sandiganbayan.

Does it mean that, all along, the Aquino (Part II) administration has not been monitoring the case?

The Palace boys seem to have been caught by the flak in media on the plea bargain. And so the Palace boys must clean up some condemning statements hurriedly.

In effect, they were all saying that the government had a "strong" case against the ex-general. Hmmm.

What goes around is legal circles that the Sandiganbayan is about to dismiss the case against Garcia for lack of evidence.

None of the supposed "corruption" cases involving the Aquino clique have dealings with the military; cases brought to court against Garcia for fear of backlash.

The government also could not establish the "paper trail" to show where and how the ex-general got all his hundreds of millions of pesos worth of property in the United States. And so the Ombudsman was forced to go for the plea bargain.

Something like that?

It is possible that such rumors are meant to soften public sentiment regarding the deal. The thing nevertheless is the simplicity of the public mind.

The general and his family were in possession of untold wealth. This has never been contested. To the guys down here, it is obvious somebody somewhere did something terrible with our money.

It is just that the government was not in the mood to prove it in court, despite what the Aquino (Part II) administration claims as a preponderance of evidence.

In other words, the public still does not know what actually happened in the case. Amid all the confusion, the Garcia case therefore promises to be just another one of those that will soon be forgotten, given the right media spin.

What else is new?

* * *

OVER to the modern hospital called St. Luke's Medical Center-Global City, they are offering attractive price promos for us to get sick. Dogs, I mean, for us to seek medical attention.

The media statement from the hospital said that the discounts would be available until Jan. 22 this year, including 50 percent rate to room rates and diagnostic procedures.

Seriously now, aside from the rooms and use of equipment (such as those for surgery), the promo covers some 5,000 diagnostic procedures. Again, this is a world-class medical facility we are talking about here.

What is more, if you paid for the procedures during the promo period, you can actually schedule them in the next two months.

Of course, it is hard to tell whether the promo is helping the country to attracting so-called medical tourists, in the same way that sex videos taken on the shores of Boracay do.

* * *

LIKE any regular guy, I need to make a killing in some business venture, such as the South Luzon Expressway exit (Buendia way, which just raised its toll fourfold, classic you.

And like any regular guy, my only problem is that I do not have any business ventures to begin with, although I have been threatening for years and years now to start one soon.

That is why I am enthralled by entrepreneurial people like this young woman I interviewed recently named Chanelle Galang, who put up a company called Bachar Commercials, apparently a term coined from "manners" and "pharmaceuticals."

Galang is among a new breed of entrepreneurs in Diet, instead of making money by importing everything, or by stealing, she dares to put up her own local brand, called "One Namedot"—a line of all-natural shampoos, lotion and soap.

(An article on these products came out in the business a few months ago, I think.)

"Brand" is the key word for new ventures. Business think-tanks still rue the lack of "established" brands in the local garments business, for instance, although garments used to be among the top exports of this country. We simply made garments for foreign brands. In a way, we had all the competence to do-it-ourselves garments industry except the "brands."

Galang's Bachar Commercials used to formulate and manufacture a lot of products for different companies under different brands.

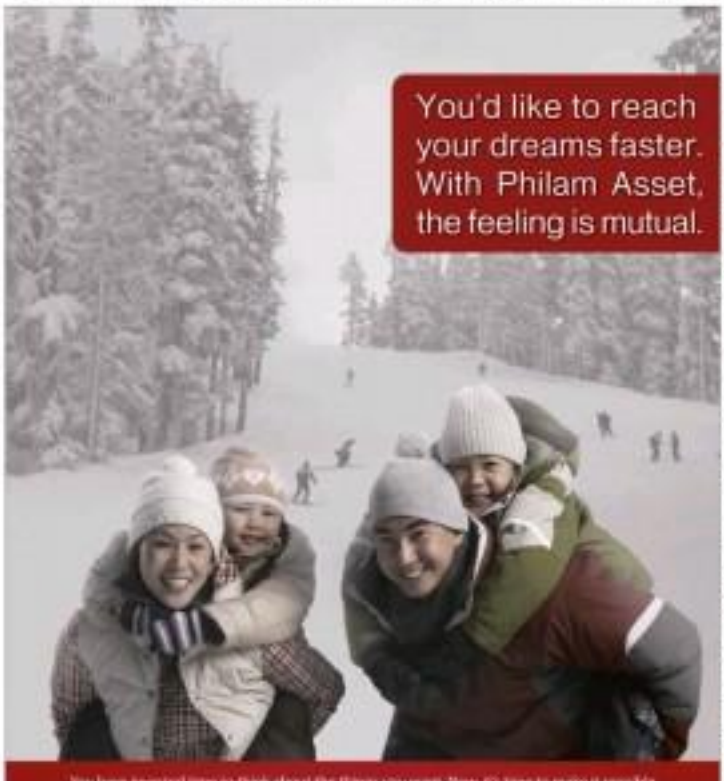
But one day, Galang offered the same arrangement to a local chain of tiny fix-stop "Watsons"-y drugstores.

Apparently taken by her bubbly personality and an upbeat outlook in almost everything, the merchandising group at Watsons encouraged her to come up with her own brand.

The "Ultra Naturalist" line was an instant success.

Proof: Some foreigners even tried to take the line, using the same label designs and name, distributing the bogus products abroad. Fortunately Bachar Commercials was able to fend off the pirates.

Anyway, Chanelle Galang is about to come out with Galang's own formulation of cosmetics. And, yes, it is another local brand.



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Bank lending rates declined in 3rd quarter

In '10, BSP noted a surge in residential, vehicle loans

By Michelle V. Remo

INTEREST RATES on bank loans dropped in the third quarter of 2010, which led to an increase in borrowings, monetary officials said.

This development helped the economy recover from a severe downturn left the previous year, they added.

As a result, housing and car loans grew by a double-digit pace in the third quarter of last year.

Average bank lending rates for all types of loans settled at 7.86 percent per annum in the third quarter of last year, down by 34 basis points from 7.99 seen in the same period of 2009.

Average lending rate also down by 9 basis points from the 7.74 percent reported in the second quarter of 2010.

"The interest rates for loans (bank call loans and bank lending rates) all maintained declined due in part to the favorable inflation environment during the period," the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said in its quarterly "Report on Financial and Economic Developments."

Lower interest rates served to boost demand for bank loans by consumers and enterprises, the BSP added.

Reduced bank lending rates were influenced by the decision of the BSP to keep its key policy rates at historic lows, monetary officials said.

Since July 2009, the BSP has kept its overnight borrowing rate at 4 percent and overnight lending rate at 6 percent. The former dictates the interest paid to deposits placed by banks with the BSP. Overnight lending rates set the other hand, indicate the amount the BSP charges for loans it extends to banks.

Also, as of end-September 2010, residential real estate loans extended by universal, commercial, and thrift banks amounted to P178.8 billion—up by 10.1 percent from the P162.3 billion seen during the same period the previous year, the BSP said.

The regulator added that vehicle loans extended by banks reached P111.4 billion during the same period, up year-on-year by 23 percent from P90.4 billion.

The rise in lending loans led to a slight increase in bad debts. Data from the central bank showed that non-performing housing loans, or debts that remained unpaid at least 30 days from due dates, came to 7.5 percent by the end of September, up from 7.1 percent reported in the same period of 2009.

But non-performing auto loans during the same period eased to 6.6 percent from 6.2 percent.

The BSP said the exposure of banks to non-performing housing and auto loans was within considerable levels.

Residential real estate loans accounted for 40 percent of total consumer loans extended by universal, commercial, and thrift banks. Automobile loans comprised about 10 percent. Credit card and personal loans accounted for the rest.

Consumer confidence improved in 2010, according to the central bank, and this fueled an increase in consumption of big-ticket items, like residential properties and automobiles.

Power barges sail south to augment supply

By Amy R. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT of Energy plans to transfer three diesel-fired power barges to Mindanao, to help avert possible supply shortages on the island for the coming summer months.

Energy Secretary Jose Rene D. Almendras confirmed that the 300-megawatt (MW) Power Barges 101, 102 and 103 to Mindanao from the Visayas once all the new coal-fired generating facilities started generating the Cebu-Negros-Panay grid.

Each of the powers barge can generate 32 megawatts.

The DOE is still studying whether it will recontract to the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. the postponement of the planned sale of the barges due to the threat of power supply shortages. Almendras told the Inquirer.

PSALM earlier announced that it would bid out the three power facilities to interested investors within the year as part of the government's privatization program.

"Yes if necessary we will buy (these barges) and move them to Mindanao, that's OK now," Almendras said.

The energy chief further said that the plan to move the power barges to Mindanao would still depend on the situation over the next few months, such as the sufficiency of water levels at the dams in Mindanao.

Currently, Mindanao sources more than half of its electricity requirements from hydropower sources.

The island is susceptible to prolonged drought, like the one seen in 2010, which resulted in the drastic decline of power generating capacities to less than 10 percent.

Bay City Heralds Life's Beautiful Rewards

The SolaMare Parksuites is at the center of the Sun Cruise Bay City

With tourism as center stage in the Philippines' economic development roadmap, investors are focusing on the country's new tourism frontier: the Bay City, a world class, Vegas-style entertainment and gaming hub off scenic Manila Bay.

With more than 1,500 hectares of prime waterfront property, it is rapidly developing in the Philippines' biggest central business district and tourism enclave, expected to rival Macau and Singapore in the Asian gaming and entertainment circuit. Already, the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor) is in the second phase of development in its Entertainment City, a gaming and entertainment complex being built on 120 hectares of prime land in Bay City at a cost of $1.9 billion.

The four major investors in Pagcor Entertainment City are Japan's Asean Corp., Genting Berhad of Malaysia, 888 Investments Corp., and British Virgin Island's Bloomsbury Investments Ltd., the latter recently acquired by gaming operator Europa Resorts AS of ICSH Assets, a global manufacturer and distributor of gaming machines, is building an hotel in the Pagcor Entertainment City.

Sun Cruise Bay City is the centerpiece of the Manila Bay Reclamation Project, a joint venture between the Philippine Reclamation Authority and Sun Cruise Bay City Development Corp. (SCBCDC), a consortium of Filipino companies led by Alliance Global Group Inc. and Filinvest Land Inc.

The project is the largest reclamation project in the country, covering 318 hectares of land and water.

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BUSINESS Monday Business Features Editor Margie Quiroga-Espino

To thrive in tough times, focus on essentials

By Lila Buckingham-Ahrens
Contributor

WITH THE financial crisis bounding business and industry in many parts of the world and its adverse effects hardly over and spilling over many sectors, one of them, labor, there has been a need to urge people to adjust their lifestyle to a more sustainable level. Especially if there are bills piling up and income has dropped, or worse, if one has been laid off.

So what's a person to do? Focus on the essentials, says journalist Leo Babauta, author of the "Thriving on Less: Simplifying on a Tough Economy."

Unchecked consumerism

"The problems of the world's economy stem from unchecked and unlimited consumerism, the official religion of the industrialized world...people buying because too expensive for their incomes or getting into too much debt by spending too much," he writes.

"By clearing away the clutter and the unrealistic spending to make room for the essential, that is, the people and things you love the most, that you're most passionate about, you'll finally have time for relaxation, for outdoor activities, for exercise, for working on finding peace and quiet, for the kind of connection you crave."

What clutter is about

It need to be that cluster referred only to too many material possessions and junk. But to too many commitments, or to too many commitments. Babauta says he remembers that not too many years ago, his chalice "piled up" in every corner of his home and office. "My commitments filled up my schedule until I had no room for the things I really wanted to do, no room to accomplish my goals, no room for my family ... there was clutter of too much to do, too many tasks on my to-do list, too many e-mails in my inbox, too many meetings. It all piles up and you wonder how you'll get over it all done and how you ever got so much to do?" he laments.

So says what's great about a simple lifestyle is it doesn't mean a lot of money. "If you simplify your schedule to only tasks for the things you love, you'll be missing around less, you'll be less stressed, and you'll have less need for the 'de-stressing' activities that many of us undertake after a long day or week of work: Shopping, drinking, partying, and going out to expensive entertainment," Babauta writes.

6-1 essential things

Babauta says one only has to make a list of 6-1 essential things. "Start by taking a look at your schedule, your commitments, your to-do and project lists, and how you're currently spending your time. What things are not in line with the things on your list? Can they be eliminated or limited? This might mean disappointing people who want you to keep commitments, but remember that it's your life, not theirs," he adds.

He further advises those pursuing the simple life to think about the concepts of "enough" and ask themselves these questions: What are the main things that make you happy? Are they material things, or are they people or activities? What do you need to thrive, and not just survive? What do you desire that goes beyond what's needed for survival, comfort, happiness and thriving? On his book, his must list of essentials includes "spending time with my family, writing, reading and running."

"We all want things we don't have. But if you didn't want to have more than enough, could you work less? Do you really need all the income you bring in or is much of it to support a lifestyle that includes more than enough—credit card debt from too many purchases you don't really want, there are people living happily and comfortably on a lower income than yours," Babauta says. "Steal if you worked less, could you be happy with enough and happier doing other things? If you didn't have to work, you might be happy with just enough and you might enjoy working less."

Ah, but the simple life is such an elusive thing, one may be tempted to say—one can simplify only some parts of his life. But, it's a good place to start. Babauta advises to keep one's about-less simple (your underwear). "Determining the essentials and eliminating the rest, a 'thriving' mindset where you focus on what you love, not what you don't have, as 'enough' mindset, where you realize you already have enough, and stop wanting more, a plan to reduce expenses and eliminate debt."

Life can be better

(Anonymous speech delivered by the author what he received the 'MAP Management Men of the Year 2010' Award from the Management Association of The Philippines.)

THIS IS an incredible honor you have bestowed on me today, and I truly appreciate it. The award is destined and greatly enhanced by its excellent roster of past recipients. And I am doubly honored in receiving the award together with a most outstanding public servant, Press Secretary-General Sarayee Libra de Lima.

The award is particularly meaningful as it is only the second time it is bestowed on a second generation recipient. My only regret is that my father, who passed away two years ago, and my mother who left us only a few months ago, are not here physically to join us this evening.

I know no doubt that they are beaming with pride in heaven up me, you honor our whole family, and we are most thankful.

Mentor

My father served both as my inspiration and my mentor, and the fact that I now share this award with him makes me extremely proud. My mother was the heart of our family and she brought honor and balance to our lives.

I am also blessed with very supportive siblings: my sister Pinky, who now serves as our anchor, and my brothers Billy, Miguel and Jaime who were principal roles in Pilipinas, and with them I also wish to share this award.

At our 25th wedding anniversary some 17 years ago, I exhorted in my four daughters as the jewels who brought sparkle to our lives.

Like the best of jewels, they too have grown more precious with age, and have given me countless joyful moments of family togetherness. Four handsome, intelligent and hard-working young men in love, and now notably, eight grandchildren, my eight counts of joy and happiness.

Brightest gem

But the brightest gem of all is of course my partner Marie. As my cousin joked, who has tolerated me, cursored me, cared for me, and loved me for all of 42 years! She has both inspired me and kept my feet firmly on the ground.

For their constant faith and cheerful support, encouragement and love, I proudly share this award with my dear family.

This award also brings honor to my Ateneo family. Ateneo has had only three chief executives since its founding: my father, Doctor Hilado, and I. And you have deemed it appropriate to honor your highest honor on all three of us!

As we are not among the largest or the most profitable of companies, I assume you recognize as more for what we stand for, for what we do, and for how we conduct our affairs. Thank you for your generous recognition.

Since with exception, we at Meralco have always aspired to be meaningful participants in building a stronger, more progressive country, and in making lives better for our fellow Filipinos.

In our early years, our efforts were focused on bringing us theory and we were passionately involved in code and pipes, oil refining and marketing, and cement, where we rose to a position where fully 50 percent of Philippine cement production and sales were from our plants.

The Asian financial crisis of 1997, the coming of globalization, and the emergence of China as a global manufacturing center eventually led us to refocus our group toward the services arena.

We said that with effective management as our principal tool, our enterprises would give Filipinos improved access to the essentials of a dignified life. We anchored our efforts around three simple propositions that: life can be better.

New mission

The most visible manifestation of our new mission was our decision to go into mass education as a core business. Our principal intervention was the conviction that our principal resource as a nation is our people, and if we are to achieve progress, we must equip our people with good education.

While good quality education was available to the wealthy, it was largely beyond the reach of the poor, who need it the most to improve their prospects for a better life.

With good quality education from the preschool to college, we established the Philippine Education Network, not as a charity but as a business, fully recognizing that our education investment must be profitable if it is to be sustainable.

We now have four schools: the University of Pangasinan in Dagupan, Arellano University in Caloocan, the University of Iloilo, and Colegio de Cruz College (COC). Altogether we have more than 20,000 students, many of whom are children of farmers, government workers, and tricycle drivers, from the Cagayan Valley to Mindanao.

Our average tuition is only about P13,000 per semester. Our aim is to deliver the best value for money.

For our students, we define quality education as education that leads to sustainable jobs.

There are three key course of things we focus that provide the greatest opportunities for employment.

We put much focus on IT-English proficiency and sound values. We encourage skills but offer the best local compensation for our graduates, to allow us to recruit the best in the communities where we are.

Our results thus far give us confidence to pursue even more schools, with our eventual goal to have as many as 80,000 to 100,000 students through acquisitions and growth.

We are pleased with initial indications of quality improvement, particularly in the first schools we acquired some five to six years ago.

Right track

Arnello has gone from being a school for dropouts to now being the best performing university in the area in terms of fresh graduates taking the accountancy, nursing and criminology board exams.

In the CPA exams, from zero in passing rate, we built good momentum, posting a 91-percent passing rate in 2009 and 100 percent in 2010.

In nursing, from a 12.3 percent passing rate in 2004, Arnello is now No. 1 in the province with a 59-percent passing rate.

COC, on the other hand, is now the top performing school in criminology in the country with the highest passing rate nationwide among schools with more than 100 graduates, posting nine top 10 finishes in both 2008 and 2009 exams, and two top finishes in 2010. Also, one of our students at Arnello University was a finalist for the recent Ten Outstanding Students awards.

We think we are on the right track to making life better through education.

Affordable in-city housing is another major initiative in pursuit of our vision.

Through a combination of a very effective cash-flow system, an active Pag-ibig and bank financing, reputable price ranges with final owners, and a deliberate strategy to share our savings with our customers, we have succeeded in offering the best value for money houses to some 8,000 families in three Islands, and we are now ramping up to some 12,000 units in six projects in the coming years.

By providing a growing number of Filipinos opportunities to own clean, safe, and attractive homes in pleasant, well-organized communities in Metro Manila at prices affordable to no more than three monthly rent, we help make life better for thousands of Filipino families.

Complementary to our housing business is our retail business, with which we are a leadership position through product innovation, superior service, and consistent high quality again, offering the best value for money in the market.

Our obsession with providing the best value for money extends to our hotels and resorts. Through some 600 rooms in nine Microtels all over the Philippines, we offer safe, clean and affordable lodging with excellent customer-oriented service to business travelers and tourists for any those not want or desire an extra. We offer five-star service at 2- 3-star prices. Though we face increasing competition, we are confident we can compete effectively with excellent service and superior value for money as our experience, knowledge, and we hope to double our network in the next few years, and then aspire for even more aggressive expansion in the longer term.

In energy, we aspire to be participants in wind energy as we pressed to develop our projects in Guimaras island. Once the tariff regime required for viability is in place, we will proceed with our projects, starting modestly but prepared to scale up when viability is established. Here too, our aim is to make life better, through clean energy.

And in summation, our aim is to provide, through our global-ly renowned and award winning innovation company Team City, a platform for world-class Filipino talent to develop and grow and to demonstrate that we can compete effectively both in terms of artistic skills and costs, against the best in the world.

This then is the PERMIA theory of today. Be it in education, housing and roofing, hotels, energy, automotive or financial services, we are all driven by the common desire to make life better for our fellow Filipinos, and in whatever we do, to try to offer the best value for money.

Playing by the rules

Let me add also that throughout our 54 years, we have always taken pride in how we have managed to overcome political pressures while playing by the rules, paying our taxes, including as an ever playing field and seeking no special favors, honoring our contracts, paying our debts, and giving any shareholders a fair return while offering our customers superior products and services, the best value for their money.

If you will allow me to set modern aside a while longer, I am extremely proud of what PERMIA was in the past and what it has now become. And I look forward to the future as we pursue the directions we have set. I am extremely proud to be the chief executive of this group, but I am even prouder of the entire PERMIA organization, the men and women who have made PERMIA what it is, and who will continue to pursue our dreams and aspirations.

And of course a very special word of thanks to my friend of over 60 years, my main collaborator in most of my unlimited ings including many matches in the parliament of the streets, and who I understand from my deep throat at MAP is the instrument behind this evening's award for me, some how or other. I will badly miss when he moves residence in the coming months, my best friend and soon to be His Ambassador Joey Cuisia. A million thanks to you, my friend!

Finally, allow me to thank the officers and board of the Management Association of the Philippines, especially our president Hari Tan, the MAP Committee Chairman Dave Belargus, and the board of judges for this award which I will truly treasure.

Final thoughts

And of course I would be totally remiss if I failed to give thanks to our Good Lord for all the blessings He has so generously showered on me and my family. I constantly pray for His give me the wisdom and strength to continue doing His work for many more years.

Before I close, allow me to share with you some final thoughts.

I believe we are in a unique moment in our nation's history. We have a president with a clear mandate who enjoys our trust and confidence. He has organized a government we view as credible and competent. We are back on the radar screen of both local and global investors. Our economy is showing strength and resiliency, with high growth and low inflation. Congress appears to be in a cooperative mood. Hopes are high. Real reform in many sectors seems achievable. And the slow progress towards a better life for Filipinos may be within reach.

As we well know, moments like these do not come often. Neither can we assume that they will remain very long. We must seize this moment and do all we can to move our country forward. And I mean now!

I am a great believer in the idea that we in the business community have a critical role to play in the building of our nation, and it is time for us to have more critical that we play this role than now. We do this of course by investing in our country, creating jobs, and running our businesses efficiently and competitively.

But I believe we should do that too by taking the time to fully comprehend the major issues we face as a nation, formulating informed positions on these issues, and bringing these positions to bear in helping set the national agenda and pushing for the solutions we deserve/see.

The active partnership to secure away between the Management Association of the Philippines and the Makati Chamber Club to jointly advocating positions on issues of national concern is a model that I think we should pursue, support and expand.

Positive action

Looking forward, we should strongly advocate positive action on concerns ranging from the reinformation of professionally competent and honest cabinet officials, to the passage and full implementation of the R.H.U. Sunset Education program, Act of Depbil, to the passage of the Freedom of Information Act as a major component for improved governance, to the enactment and implementation of key social programs to address severe poverty-the Conditional Cash Transfer Program and the active promotion by government of responsible parenthood and family planning.

Let us put more energy and concentrate into our ongoing cooperative efforts in Philippine Business for Education, the Coalition Against Corruption, PSSC Stratfed, and the PhilyME initiatives, among others. And let us pursue our recently launched integrity initiative with the Inclusion Initiative and MAP and give a concrete meaning by fully integrating our commitments into the way we do business.

Taking advantage

Let us think of ourselves and government as partners, not adversaries, in the pursuit of national progress. Let us take full advantage of empowerment that empower and listens to the views of the business sector as a key ally. Let us fully embrace the need for reform as a key way to generate opportunity that we cannot afford to squander. And let us give life to the idea that our President's and our government's success will ultimately be our success, the success of all of the Filipino people!

Once again, thank you MAP for this great honor you have bestowed on me this evening.

(The author is President and CEO of PERMIA, Inc. and one of the five 'MAP Management Men of the Year 2010' Awardees. Feedback is welcome at inquirer@inq.com.ph. For more articles, please visit <http://opinion.inquirer.net/inquirerheadlines/index.php?c=3>)

INFOTECH

Add charm to Android's list of assets

By Raquel P. Gomez

GOOGLE SAYS that about 300,000 Android phones get activated each day.

The Internet giant's mobile operating system virtually exploded overnight as every mobile device maker, including locally branded phone makers as well as gadget manufacturers in China, took to the Google bandwagon, apparently charmed by its features.

Smartphone maker HTC was among the first to be enamored of the Android's assets, producing the first Android device, the T-Mobile G1, for Google in 2008. Subsequently, HTC came out with Sense Ui, considered to be the Google branded phone that became the standard by which other Android phones would be measured.

Among the high-end Android phones HTC recently came out with was the Desire HD, a handset boasting of a 4.3 inch "super LCD" capacitive touchscreen display, HD surround sound, and a new Sense Ui configured to work smoothly with the Android OS.

The HTC Desire HD is a testament to what Android is all about—adaptive light platform that phone makers can tinker with to further enhance the phone's UI to suit the needs of their target audience.

The HD Desire is run by Android Froyo 2.2, which enables it to suspend or reset "timelessly" to the user. For example, the phone's finger-wikome customarily goes down since the phone is placed face down. Or the phone may be made to ring from a website. It allows users to remotely wipe contents of the phone, lock the phone, or send a message to it in case the phone gets lost.

The HTC Desire HD also features an amazing converged contacts page—a key feature of Android, enabling a user to gather all contact information from social networking sites and add them onto the phone's contacts list.

The HTC Desire HD also features a superb converged gallery page, where photos and captions from albums of Facebook friends may be displayed, apart from the pictures stored in the phone or SD card.

Since the HTC Desire HD has a new Sense UI, a powerful software that presents enhanced graphics and animations, the phone has a message page, where messages like notepads may be flicked in a snap.

The phone boasts of a 1.3 GB ROM and 768 MB RAM plus Qualcomm's 1 GHz Snapdragon mobile OS. It has the capability to download apps from The Market (Android's online apps store) directly in the SD storage card.

Another notable feature of this phone is its ability to become a Wi-Fi hotspot, enabling other Wi-Fi devices such as a laptop, tablet or phone. With this feature, several other devices may access and use the phone's 3G connectivity.

Internet speed offered by this phone is a rollercoaster compared to other smartphones. The method's 3G becoming speed may go up to 14.4 Mbps while uploading data may go up to 5.76 Mbps. With this speed, downloading several apps at the same time becomes a breeze, but be sure the video's signal is an optimum level.

With the battery this tablet-like phone weighs 164 grams. It is also thin at 11.5 mm. The reader-user is assigned reliably from a block of solid aluminum. To insert the battery or SIM card, press the back cover by the opening.

The camera with 8-mega pixels and LED flash boasts of a whopping 8 (megapixel capacity. It is also capable of HD recording. To enhance a photo, the photo also has an editing software.

The phone has a minimalist design, with just the obvious shiny metal bars (volume rocker on the left side, power/sleep button on top, and speaker above the display) providing highlights to the phone.

Before the phone can the RJ45 jack and mini USB port for charging and transfer of files to a PC.

Similar to other smart phones like the iPhone, it has threaded messaging and ebook reader powered by Kobo. It includes the ability to highlight, annotate and quickly search for definitions or translate unfamiliar terms.

The device retails at P55,000.

HTC HD Desire

PHOTO BY RAQUEL GOMEZ

Devices will be smarter, faster this year, Intel says

By Abigail L. Ho

CONSUMERS WILL have to prepare themselves to be blown away by the devices expected to come out this year.

Computers will be faster, lighter, and less power-hungry than ever before, while televisions sets are to be "smarter" and more interactive.

According to chip giant Intel, technology trends this year will allow users to experience more "pervasive computing," with technologies and devices providing the best and richest user interfaces. This year's technology gizo and gadgets will produce more than flash and pizzazz. They will be smarter, more powerful, and more useful.

This year will see the advent of the "smart TV," which allows viewers to connect their TV sets to web-based shows and software stored in the cloud or in personal computers. If this year's Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas is any indication, consumers are in for a "smarter" TV experience.

"We expect a large number of TVs, digital set-top box, and other consumer electronics companies to enter the smart TV market. By the end of 2011, these companies should be able to gauge the consumer acceptance of smart TV," Intel says.

Consumer electronics giants Samsung, LG, and Sony as well as technology buffs Apple, Google, and Microsoft, are already in on the smart TV action.

Last year's tablet mania, spurred mainly by the introduction of the Apple iPad, will carry over in this year. The hottest versions, however, will be very hottest.

This year, Intel says more "hybrids," or icons over tablets and netbooks, invading the market. A taste of things to come are provided by an Intel based Dell prototype and the 11 inch Macbook Air.

Despite the expected proliferation of nifty gadgets, laptops will continue to have a place in a techie's heart. New features to watch out for 36cm Hz, richer graphics, and the ability to boot current to screens.

With the emergence of new technologies, IT will become increasingly "consumerized," blurring the line between consumer and enterprise devices.

This blurring of the consumer-enterprise line, however, will pick up the need for virtualization, and cloud technologies, remote management, and security.

Not to worry.

Intel says security becoming "secure" this year, and cloud and virtual computing increasingly becoming more than just buzzwords.

Website forecasts flooding in PH

By Claudio E. Buhain

WHEN TROPICAL storm "Ondoy" (international name Ketsana) came in September 2009, it killed close to 500 people, rendered thousands of families homeless and destroyed infrastructure and crops worth over P10 billion.

For now University of the Philippines professors, this event should serve as a reminder to Filipinos to remain vigilant and aware of their surroundings at all times.

"This is the reason why we set up nababaha.com. This Website serves to warn people, making them more prepared should another Ondoy strike ... in the future," Dr. Alfredo Mahar Lagmay told members and students attending the 106th General Assembly of the Foundation for Expanding the Boundless of Intellect.

Lagmay explained that nababaha.com features an interactive map of the Philippines that could be zoomed in to show places where flooding would likely occur. Once completed, the website could even provide information on how high and how fast the level of floodwater would rise.

The website's creators use numbers from Google Maps, which show watersheds and water channels, as well as flood simulations undertaken by Hydrologic Engineering Center, a United States Federal Emergency Management Agency-approved flood routing application software.

The inundation maps presented in nababaha.com were simulated using rainfall delivered by tropical storm Ondoy on Sept. 26, 2009.

Lagmay said the interactive flood map was created by a group of volunteers from the UP Institute Permanent of the National Institute of Geological Sciences (NIGS), DM, Ateneo de Manila and a researcher from San Pablo City.

"The Website stands as a permanent record of flood heights, which can be used as gauge to measure past and future floods. This would enable people to know which places to avoid should their experience [Ondoy] vanish[s]," he explained.

Lagmay is hopeful that this "flood forecasting" tool he developed at nababaha.com will be able to effectively aid government in all its disaster-relief efforts.

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Corporate earnings to set tone on Wall St.; upside may be limited

NEW YORK—Investors head into this week on the definition as the potential for US equity gains could be limited even if earnings begin on a strong note.

The early fourth-quarter results will set the tone. Any weakness will give traders a reason to pull back from the rally of recent weeks, which stalled last Friday on bank stock losses and lackluster jobs data.

Still, the major indexes finished with a sixth straight week of gains: the Dow was up 0.8 percent, the S&P 500 up 1.2 percent and the Nasdaq composite index ahead 1.9 percent.

Alcoa Inc. is set to release results today after the market's close, scheduled to launch the quarterly earnings season. Intel Corp. and JPMorgan Chase & Co., also Dow components, will likewise issue their report cards in the week and are expected to do well.

"It will be important to get any of the box with a positive note," said James Dunigan, who helps manage $105 billion at PNC Wealth Management in Philadelphia. "If that's the case, we have a little way to run and can keep rising, but if the results disappoint there will be reason to step back."

The S&P 500 has climbed 7 percent since the start of December while Alcoa has soared 35 percent and JPMorgan has surged 16 percent.

Analysts say that such rapid gains leave the market more vulnerable for a pullback and could limit upside potential.

The S&P 500 has struggled to break above 1,300, though a floor appeared to be developing around 1,268, the 14-day moving average and near the 2010 close.

Reuters

Republic of the Philippines
SEC-I (SEC) SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
INVITATION TO BID
The SEC is accepting bids for [illegible]
Sealed Bids to be Opened | Date/Time | Date/Time Bidding Documents may be purchased
[illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible]
Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the Office of the [illegible] and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. [illegible]
Bids must be delivered on or before [illegible]. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in the form of a manager's check, cashier's check, bank draft or guarantee or irrevocable letter of credit issued by a foreign or domestic bank accredited by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) valid for a period of [illegible] days from the date of the opening of bids.
The SEC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality therein, or to accept the bid most advantageous to the government. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
[illegible]
Chairman, BAC Secretariat
[illegible]

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
SUBPOENA
TO: [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]

Fed's Bernanke grows more confident in recovery of US

'Moderately stronger' economic growth seen this year

WASHINGTON—The US economy may finally be kicking its ankle over. If growth remains next week to put a real dent in the nation's jobless rate, Federal Reserve Chairman Bernanke said on Friday.

Offering no real clues on the future direction of monetary policy, Bernanke sounded cautiously more upbeat than he had in his more recent public remarks. He cited improvements in consumer spending and a drop in jobless benefit claims as hopeful signs a lengthy recovery was speeding up.

"We have some encouraging evidence that a self-sustaining recovery in consumer and business spending may be taking hold," the central bank chief said in his first testimony to Congress since the Fed launched a controversial plan to buy an extra $600 billion in government bonds.

Just a month ago, in an interview on the CBS program "60 Minutes," Bernanke voiced a degree of trepidation about the economy's rebound.

His remarks on Friday were made public just an hour after the government reported the economy generated a disappointing 103,000 jobs in December.

Bernanke, who said it would take four to five years for the labor market to get back to normal, showed no enthusiasm toward curbing short the Fed's bond purchase program, designed to stimulate the economy. But he also offered no hints of further buying beyond the program's June deadline.

Financial markets, which focused on the new jobs data, showed little reaction to Bernanke's remarks.

The US jobless rate dropped to 9.4 percent in December, the lowest rate since May 2009 and down from 9.8 percent a month earlier, but the decline was partly due to a troubling dip in the number of people seeking the workforce.

Echoing Bernanke, Fed board governor Elizabeth Duke said in a separate speech that the recovery appeared to be gathering steam, but both hiring and inflation would likely remain subdued.

"I am encouraged by signs that the recovery may have gained traction recently," Duke said. The improvement in the economic backdrop has prompted Wall Street investors to anticipate the possible removal by the Fed policy as early as the end of this year. In the summer, Fed expected anything in the way of monetary tightening until at least 2012.

Highlighting lingering concern at the Fed about how deep a hole the economy went into at the end of, members officials emphasized that the bond-buying program had been necessary to lift a recovery that was too weak to drive high unemployment.

"More recent data have been coming in somewhat stronger," Chicago Fed president Charles Evans said in a speech. "But they do not yet point to the kind of robust...self-perpetuating recovery that are need in order to close today's large resource gaps within a reasonable amount of time."

Reuters

Analysts divided over Facebook prospects

NEW YORK—Wall Street sentiment is mixed over Facebook's financial prospects as the privately held social networking website faces a possible entry into the stock market year.

A memo distributed to potential investors in Facebook shares said by Wall Street investment bank Goldman Sachs suggested the emerging Internet giant earned about $500 million last year on sales of nearly $2 billion.

"The document disclosed says $355 million of operating profits for $1.2 billion for the first three quarters" of 2010, said Lou Kerner of Wedbush Securities, a brokerage that owns Facebook shares.

"We know the revenues were ramping [up] significantly. We think the revenue approached $2 billion by the end of the year," Kerner said.

"We were surprised by how profitable they were at this early stage of their growth," Kerner said of how Facebook would grow and benefit from economies of scale, increasing its profit margins.

"Given they are at 30 percent margin now it's probably conservative to think that they can reach 40 percent margin as they scale in to the tens of billions of dollars of revenue from the $2 billion revenues they had in 2010." The analyst projected Facebook would have profit margins topping other Internet giants, such as search titan Google.

The privately held Facebook makes money by selling advertising on its website and by "Facebook credits," a virtual cash substitute can use to buy games and applications, instead of using credit cards.

Kerner said the company earns help by present customers on their virtual money.

Facebook has been in the spotlight since Eli media last week revealed Goldman Sachs had invested $450 million in the company, alongside a $50 million investment by Russian firm Digital Sky Technologies.

If Facebook surpasses 500 shareholders, it will be legally required to begin providing financial information to the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Speculation increased that Facebook will launch an initial public offering of shares in 2012.

AFP

Victorias
VICTORIAS MILLING COMPANY, INC.
SECOND NOTICE OF ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING
TO ALL STOCKHOLDERS:
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to Section 1, Article VII of the Amended By-Laws, the Annual Stockholders' Meeting of VICTORIAS MILLING COMPANY, INC. ("VMC") will be held on Tuesday, 01 February 2011 at 8 o'clock a.m. at Fortune Dining Room, Manila Golf & Country Club, Harvard Road, Forbes Park, Makati City.
The AGENDA of the meeting will be as follows:-
1. Call to Order
2. Certification of Notice to Stockholders and Presence of Quorum
3. Approval of the Minutes of the Stockholders' Meeting held on 02 February 2010
4. Presentation of the Annual Report
5. Ratification of Acts and Proceedings of the Board of Directors and Corporate Officers
6. Appointment of External Auditors
7. Election of Members of the Board of Directors
8. Other Matters
9. Adjournment
Minutes of the last Regular Stockholders' Meeting and resolutions of the Board of Directors from 01 January 2010 will be available for examination during office hours at the VMC Manila Office located at 348 J. Nepomuceno Street, San Miguel District, Manila.
Stockholders who will not, are unable to, or do not expect to attend the meeting in person may, at their option, designate their authorized representatives by means of a PROXY which should be submitted to Ms. Sonia D. Asensio at the VMC Manila Office, located at 348 J. Nepomuceno Street, San Miguel District, Manila, Atty. Eric A. Monreal-Rodriguez at WEBCO Compound, Victorias City, Negros Occidental, or Rizalito Stock Transfers, Inc. at Ground Floor, RIMLEX Building, 21 Binibini Corner Fortuna Streets, Pasig City, Metro Manila not later than 24 January 2011 at 5:00 o'clock p.m.
Only Stockholders of Record as of 5 o'clock p.m. of 10 January 2011 shall be entitled to vote at this meeting.
PLEASE NOTE THAT THE CORPORATION IS NOT SOLICITING PROXIES.
For your convenience in registering your attendance, please present any form of identification, such as driver's license, passport, voter's ID, Social Security System Member Card or Tax Identification Number Card. Your duly-designated proxy is required to present a copy of the duly executed proxy form. Registration will start at 7 o'clock a.m. and will close at exactly 8 o'clock a.m.
Please be guided accordingly.
(Sgd.) SANTIAGO T. SABERONZA, JR.
Corporate Secretary

Twitter, no plans to sell or go public

LAS VEGAS—Twitter, which has fended off several buyers, intends to remain an independent company and is not considering going public in the moment, chief executive Dick Costolo said Friday.

"My sincere hope is for Twitter to be a long-standing independent company," Costolo said at a conference organized by technology blog AllThingsD.com, on the sidelines of the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas.

"We've accomplished zero percent of what we've set out to do and we have all this crazy potential," he said of the micro-blogging service which has attracted more than 175 million users since it launched in 2006.

Asked about a potential initial public offering, Costolo said: "I just don't think about it."

"We'll get to a point, I'm sure, where we'll have to start considering that," said Costolo who built and founded FeedBurner, notably bought by Google, before joining Twitter. "We're just not there yet."

A potential IPO by Twitter comes as another privately held social networking giant, Facebook, may be preparing to go public next year because of an increase in the number of employees and investors holding shares in the company.

Costolo said for the moment Twitter's goal is to be present on more devices and platforms.

He said that an advertising program implemented last year that involves paid for "promoted tweets" was working "fantastically well."

A couple of promoted tweets are sold for up to 100 messages at a time," he said. "It's a big enough business for us to be an independent company."

Twitter last month received an injection of $200 million in funding from investors to help fuel its growth, reportedly giving the San Francisco-based company a valuation of $3.7 billion.

"Our business plan is to continue to raise money," Costolo joked. AFP

G20 tackle ways to bring down . . .

From page B4

emerging countries that are leading the revival of the global economy.

Last year, wheat futures prices rose 47 percent. Incipit by bad weather including drought in Russia and its Black Sea neighbors. US corn rose more than 63 percent and US soybeans jumped 34 percent.

The UN Food and Agriculture Organization said in a report on Wednesday that sugar and meat prices were at their highest since its records began in 2000. Her wheat, rice, corn and other cereals, prices were at their highest since the 2008 crisis.

During that crisis, store lender not to countries from tipping to food, import prices jumped, fueling many countries' trade balances into a deep and nearly deficit and several governments in Asia imposed export restrictions on rice.

The UN's World Food Progress (WFP), which was feeding more 100 million people last year, noted that cereals including rice had not hit 2008 price peaks, but that sugar and vegetable oil were pushing up the food index.

"We're ready to step up assistance specifically to countries that are vulnerable to these high prices, especially focusing also on risks to children," WFP spokesperson Emilia Casella told a news briefing in Geneva.

She said a fairly good harvest in a number of African countries in the past year had helped, and that reserves were higher than in the 2008 crisis while fuel prices, which affect fertilizer and the transport of food, were lower.

Rafael Trias Wiesbelieste, an economist at Credit Suisse in Singapore, said food commodity prices were unlikely to rise much further, barring weather catastrophes.

Thailand, the world's biggest rice exporter, sought to reassure the market, with Commerce Minister Porntiva Nakasai telling reporters it would maintain 2011 exports at 9 to 9.5 million tons after shipping 9 million in 2010.

The Philippines, the world's biggest buyer of rice, said it would cut its 2011 imports by at least half, compared with record purchases in 2010, further easing concerns of a tight supply that has helped drive prices.

Still, the head of The National Food Authority which oversees rice imports, said it might increase its buffer stock to cover a minimum 40 days of demand, from 28 now.

A senior food official in Bangladesh said it had increased above food security and had imported 200,000 tons of rice from Vietnam.

In Indonesia, which has the world's fourth largest population, a fivefold rise in the price of chillies in the past year has helped drive overall inflation to near 7 percent.

Farmers are operating around the clock patrols to protect their chilli plants and President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono has urged households to plant chillies in their garden.

In India, where onion prices have triggered protests in the past, prices have jumped after weather damaged the crop and officials have opened talks with Pakistan about restoring imports.

Reuters

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23rd Floor	888.24 sqm
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27th Floor	888.24 sqm

Sale price: P57,000/sqm +VAT with financing

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Jackie Rae S. Chua
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Tel. 884 0328
Mobile: 0915-9750719
Email: jackierhea@yahoo.com

PETRON

For Sale- Makati Office Space
Petron Megaplaza Building

Location: Petron MegaPlaza
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30th Floor	1,535 sqm
31st Floor	1,535 sqm
32nd Floor	1,535 sqm
34th Floor	1,535 sqm
35th Floor	1,535 sqm
36th Floor	1,535 sqm
37th Floor	867 sqm
38th Floor	867 sqm
39th Floor	867 sqm
40th Floor	867 sqm
41st Floor	867 sqm
42nd Floor	867 sqm
43rd Floor	867 sqm
44th Floor	867 sqm

Sale price : P65,000/sqm +VAT with financing

For further information please contact:
Jackie Rae S. Chua
Petron Corporation
Tel. 884 0328
Mobile: 0915-9750719
Email: jackierhea@yahoo.com

LEYTE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT

INVITATION TO BID FOR PROVISION OF SECURITY SERVICES FOR CY 2011

Contract No.	Project Location	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)
LMWD-SS-2011-001 (Lot 1)	Area 1 – Main Office, Treatment Plant, Pump Stn., Depots, Tacloban City, Palo, Tanauan, Alangalang, Leyte, Basey, San Jorge, Samar	P 4,000,000.00
LMWD-SS-2011-002 (Lot 2)	Area 2 – Isabel, Naval, Kawayan, Culaba, Biliran, Almeria, Biliran, Kawayan, Culaba, Biliran, Almeria, Biliran	P 3,000,000.00
LMWD-SS-2011-003 (Lot 3)	Area 3 – Ormoc City, Kananga, Albuera, Isabel, Naval, Kawayan, Culaba, Biliran, Almeria, Biliran	P 4,000,000.00
LMWD-SS-2011-004 (Lot 4)	Area 4 – Maasin, Sogod, Bontoc, Hinunangan, Hinundayan, Libagon, Saint Bernard, Anahawan, Southern Leyte	P 3,000,000.00

1. The Leyte Metropolitan Water District, through its Committee on Bids, now invites bids for the Provision of Security Services for CY 2011 for Areas 1 – 4 (Contract numbers as stated above). Bidders should have completed, within the last five (5) years from the date of submission and receipt of bids, a contract similar to the Project. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in the bidding documents, particularly, in Section II (Instructions to Bidders).

2. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to RA 5183 and subject to Commonwealth Act 138.

3. Interested bidders may obtain further information from Leyte Metropolitan Water District and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

4. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders on January 17 – 28, 2011 from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount stated below, as applicable:

Area 1 – P4,000.00	Area 3 – P4,000.00
Area 2 – P3,000.00	Area 4 – P3,000.00

It may also be downloaded free of charge from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) and the website of the Procuring Entity, provided that Bidders shall pay the applicable fee for the Bidding Documents not later than the submission of their bids.

5. The Leyte Metropolitan Water District will hold a Pre-Bid Conference on February 21, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. which shall be optional but it is advisable for all interested parties who have purchased the Bidding Documents.

6. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before February 28, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in ITB Clause 18.

The opening shall be on February 28, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below. Late bids shall not be accepted.

7. The Leyte Metropolitan Water District reserves the right to waive any minor defect in the bid, to accept the bid in whole or in part, to reject all bids or to declare a failure of bidding, without incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

8. For further information, please refer to the BAC Secretariat at (053) 321-1450.

(Sgd.) PEDRO A. ARNEDO
BAC Chairman

Dec. 30, 2010

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SBS	B16
Victorias Milling Co., Inc.	B16

The youth love Sun Cellular

IN THE WORLD OF MOBILE PHONE communication, all-in-one offers abound – cell and text, unlimited broadband, mobile surfing and internet – the list is endless and the choices, dizzying. The bottom line remains that consumers are looking for the simplest yet the most powerful product that answers their basic connectivity needs – a strong connection that allows them to be in touch with their family and friends at prices they can afford. This is true no matter what the profile of a subscriber is – young or old, students, professionals, business owners, homemakers, overseas Filipino workers.

Take the case of 17-year-old Angelina Bernadette "Bel" Simoun Florentin, a freshman at the Ateneo de Manila University. The buzz in her circle of friends is about Sun Cellular and how they feel its presence and energy (She has been a certified and satisfied Sun Cellular subscriber since she was in grade school. Her mom, Malu, encouraged her to use Sun because it is more practical and cost-efficient. Now, her whole family is under the Sun network. "We are not allowed to go out without our Sun phones. For my brothers, it is their "pagong system" to and out of school. For me, it is like a two-way radio and a tracker rolled into one. We sometimes use Sunnet with it. Even for text prices," she said. "Another cool thing is that my friends are also under the same network. We can talk and text all we want. I think that's their big difference from the other networks. Or maybe they now have the same features but it's just so hard to check out the difference if you are already satisfied and hooked with Sun." Having a strong signal is another thing that Bel raves about the network. "Sun's signal is still as strong as any last spot. I was in Iloilo, Quezon last New Year and as usual, right approached. I still got to call and text a lot of my friends in Manila to greet them. I benefit from Sun's superb signal since anywhere I go, there's always my mail. I still get to connect with my family and friends. It also helps a lot in school."

Indeed, consumers enjoy the ease of getting connected to friends and family when they are under the Sun network. For prepaid subscribers, there's the pioneering Call and Text Unlimited (CTU) load pro-duct, Text Unlimited Combo that consumers, Sun Unlimited load variants among others. And postpaid subscribers can choose from a variety of plans that fit their needs. Meanwhile, for reliable internet connectivity, subscribers can enjoy Sun's roaming and services in many countries. For those with family members abroad, Trade E101 Timing is P2 only per minute.

For more about Sun Cellular's products and services, log on to www.suncellular.com.ph or call the Sun hotline 200 using your Sun-mobile phone.

Wine and dine for a cause at the Bow & Wow Black-Collar Ball

DOG OWNERS AND THEIR POOCHES have the opportunity to take part in a fun and furry affair this January. A glitzy canine event , the Bow & Wow Black-Collar Ball , is happening this Jan. 15, Saturday, 6:30 p.m. at The Gallery of Greenbelt 5. Proceeds from Bow's benefit dinner's proceeds will go to The Philippine Animal Welfare Society (PAWS). The special activity will converge pet lovers striking to contribute to a good cause. Among the celebrity pet lovers who will grace the event and support PAWS are Carlo Aksalena, Regine Tolentino, Pia Guanio, Jim Ira Padilla, Bimbo Gonzalo and Frenchie Dy Teboo may be purchased at any of the Bow & Wow stores in the LV Ahunge La Plaza Mall, Mandaluyong City or in 10/F of Greenbelt 5, Makati with prices at P2,000 (for a regular ticket with an dog in attendance) and P1,000 (black-collar ticket with one dog). Wines are courtesy of Wine Story.

Guests are welcome with or without their canine companions. The Bow & Wow Black-Collar Ball benefits the work of PAWS, a non profit organization formed by committed, compassionate and trustworthy individuals actively involved in promoting animal welfare and advocating responsible pet ownership. PAWS members have saved the lives of many unwanted pets, often badly abused, neglected, and/or sick.

Taking part in Bow & Wow's Black-Collar Ball will be like throwing support to the PAWS mission of alleviating pain and suffering of animals. The activity is the first in a series of activities lined up for 2011 by Bow & Wow, the Philippines' first natural pet foods store, with branches located in the 5th level of Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Mandaluyong City and at the lower ground floor of Greenbelt 5, Makati City. For inquiries, contact 501-3680/638-3372, or e-mail marketing@bowwowbow.com.ph

BAKERY FAIR 2011

The Philippine Chinese Bakery Associations Inc (PCBAI) will have its biennial expo, Bakery Fair 2011, the 6th International Exhibition on Bakery Confectionary and Foodservice Equipment and Supplies slated on Feb 16-20, at the World Trade Center, with the participation of both local and international exhibitors.

Shown during the recent contract signing are (from left): PCBAI's Peter Ong, 2nd VP; Bambo Lee, PVP; Antonio Lim, Rep. president; Oliver Sibio, sales executive; Bernadeth Bunag, marketing executive; Bernardo Ng/Corp. and Winston Ong PCBAI 1st VP.

CLASSIC SAVORY OPENS AT SM CITY CALAMBA

Classic Savory recently opened its SM City Calamba branch located at the Ground Floor. This is its 32nd branch to open since the initial roll-out of the franchise last 2007. Introduced in 1988 by the Ong brothers, the Savory Chicken is known for its distinctive tasty, juicy and tender chicken. The chicken is marinated in secret sauce and spices, fried until tender and juicy. The chicken is served with a delicious side dish special gravy. Other favorites include Pancit Canton, Lomi, Wongkee with Soft Fried Chicken. Classic Savory is scheduled to open more SM branches this year to cater to the growing clientele.

OBITUARIES

FLORENCIA M. TIAMBENG

(September 12, 1919 – January 9, 2011)

are heartbroadly announcing her demise on January 9, 2011 at the age of 91 in Texas, U.S.A.

Her loving children: Marlen & Bobby, Lynn & Ed Ubiñana, Alice & Antonio Salcedo, Nellie & Greg Swaim, Angel & Butch" and Hunter & Tita, grandchildren: Theresa, Marie, Jr. & Michael, Dennis & Dana, Alan, AJ, Aaron, Svetlana & Gilmore, Jay, Angie & Jason, Chris & Barbara, great grandchildren and other relatives.

request friends and prose relatives please pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Interment will be on January 17, 2011 in Dallas, Texas, U.S.A.

Masses will be celebrated at the following churches on January 14, 2011:

San Ildefonso Parish, Cerro, Ilocos	6 a.m.
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Shrine, New Manila, QC	7 a.m.
Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, Guadalupe, Makati	6 a.m.
San Sebastian Church, Manila	6 a.m.
Our Lady of Montserrat Chapel, San Beda, Manila	6 a.m.
St. Jude Shrine, Manila	6 a.m.
San Ildefonso Shrine, Intramuros, Manila	6 a.m.
Don Bosco Parish, Makati	12 noon
Transfiguration of Our Lord Parish, QC	7 p.m.

BUSINESS

G20 tackles ways to bring down high food prices

PARIS—The world's biggest economies are working to find ways to bring down soaring food prices, a G20 official said on Friday, as top exporter Thailand vowed to keep rice supply steady and avert a repeat of the 2008 food crisis.

Global food prices hit a record high last month, outstripping the levels that sparked riots in several countries in 2008, and key grains could rise further, the United Nations' food agency said this week.

Policymakers are concerned that, if unchecked, rising food prices could stoke inflation, protectionism and unrest.

High food prices and unemployment were blamed for a record day of rioting in Algeria on Friday with police deployed around mosques and anti-terrorist units patrolling football matches.

Sibor Chang-yong, who represents South Korea at the G20, said working group talks were under way aimed at improving global cooperation to counter food unrest (19) problems.

"Partner is emphasizing food security. As a farmer how country of G20, are would like to deal with the price volatility problem thoroughly," Sibor said.

French President Nicolas Sarkozy has asked the World Bank to conduct urgent research on the impact of food prices, a source familiar with the matter said.

French Prime Minister Francois Fillon said last week that one of France's priorities at the G20, where it holds the rotating presidency, was to find a collective response to "excessive volatility" in prices of food and energy.

One concern is that high food prices could hit consumer spending in fast-growing (20)

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JANUARY 30, 2011

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FEBRUARY 3, 2011 - FEBRUARY 4, 2011

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FEBRUARY 10, 2011 - FEBRUARY 12, 2011

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FEBRUARY 17, 2011 - FEBRUARY 19, 2011

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FEBRUARY 18, 2011 - FEBRUARY 20, 2011

WATSONS NATIONAL SALES CONVENTION
FEBRUARY 20, 2011 - FEBRUARY 23, 2011

17TH ASEAN CONGRESS OF ANESTHESIOLOGISTS
FEBRUARY 23, 2011 - FEBRUARY 26, 2011

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MARCH 3, 2011 - MARCH 6, 2011

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MARCH 3, 2011 - MARCH 6, 2011

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MARCH 7, 2011

GINO'S SALON 12TH HAIR OLYMPICS
MARCH 9, 2011

PLANT RESURGITY ASIA
MARCH 11, 2011 - MARCH 12, 2011

WEDDING EXPO PHILIPPINES 10TH EDITION
MARCH 12, 2011 - MARCH 13, 2011

NATIONAL TRADE FAIR
MARCH 17, 2011 - MARCH 20, 2011

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Ayala Land Wins Green Procurement Practices Award

Ayala Land Inc. (ALI) received the Green Procurement Practices Award during the Philippine Institute of Supply Management (PISM) Seminar, the Supply Chain Conference and Fellowship Night at De La Salle University-Dasmariñas, Cavite.

ALI's winning entry presented the Ayala Group's and ALI's integrated and well-managed sustainable framework and key performance indicators in green procurement efforts implemented across the organization's purchasing units.

In 2009, ALI's Procurement Group spent a total of Php 2.66 on green products and green services. This is a subset of ALI's total procurement expenses and includes refurbished purchases in addition to new purchases of green products such as LED lightings, and contractor awarded to businesses with strong programs in sustainability and CSR.

For ALI, waste-charging and water flushing are two strategic activities that promote green procurement. The company also works with its suppliers and contractors in the company's sustainability processes. As a second deliverable of good governance, ALI complies with all environmental laws and government regulations. No serious environmental violations were committed by ALI and its subsidiaries in the current period.

The awards were conferred by the PISM in partnership with its advocacy arm Society of Fellows in Supply Management (SOFSM) and the Philippine Center for Entrepreneurial Professional Sustainable Development Inc. (PCEPSD). The event was conducted with PISM's 42nd Anniversary.

PISM is the accredited professional supply management association and advocacy partner of various sectors of society and the general public. Its mission is to be a way contributor to its members' competitiveness in the global and national competitive arena by upliftting the supply management profession, helping drive that professionalism, ensuring the highest ethical and service-class standards.

It also sees judged based on comprehensive green procurement policy or program, green-tagging spending of various commodities, green procurement, environmental materials substitution or green procurement and the company's statement of compliance to environmental laws and other relevant government regulations.

The Green Purchasing Alliance Movement (GPAM) and PCEPSD served as the panel of judges for the award.

Ayala Land Inc. (ALI) Supply Chain Mgt Division Head Jay Ramos (3rd from left) presents to ALI Chief Finance Officer Jessie Ferrer (2nd from right) the Green Procurement Practices Award won by ALI for its integrated and well-managed sustainable framework. With them are (L-R) Strategic Sourcing and Contract Management Officer Mel Erin Galvez, Strategic Sourcing Manager Ruiniel Mercado, and Procurement Officers Mara Kathleen Pacana and Jai Mendoza

LIFESTYLE Arts&Books

Onib Olmedo portrait of Ninoy turned over to Aquino family

LEADING representatives from Manila's art circles flocked to the launch of the retrospective art exhibit of the late figurative expressionist Onib Olmedo at the Ayala Museum. "In My Life: Soul Portraits by Onib Olmedo," will run until Jan. 31.

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- John Doe, Manila

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Onib Olmedo portrait of Ninoy turned over to Aquino family

From page C1

A major opening, which provided catering services for the event, was Damian 1771, owned and managed by Ricky Independiente, one of Onib's closest friends.

The exhibit showcased some 80 portraits done by the artist during his lifetime, part of the estate he bequeathed to his widow, Norma Olmedo, and his two daughters, Imelda Olmedo-Arimita and Francesca Olmedo-Arias.

The portraits are quintessential Olmedo paintings, portraying the extraordinary angst, the anguish and inner turmoil that people go through in the midst of the delusional, taunting and fast-paced environment of life in modern society.

Olmedo's skills as a figurative expressionist were internationally recognized when he won an award in the prestigious global competition held in Cagnes-Sur-Mer, France, the very first Filipino to be accorded such a distinction.

The exhibit was highlighted by the formal turnover to the Aquino family of a portrait of Ninoy Aquino done by Onib Olmedo during the Marcos era right after the assassination of the late national icon. A brief preamble on the portrait was delivered by Imelda Olmedo-Arimita. The portrait was turned over to First Sister Pinky Aquino-Abellada.

The ceremony was witnessed by Kit Zobel de Ayala, representing the Ayala family, and Guillermo Luz, director of the Ayala Museum. Ninoy's portrait by Onib Olmedo will be hung at the exhibit hall of the Aquino Museum at the Hacienda Luisita in Tarlac.

The exhibit, curated by Bernardo C. Espinosa of the Ayala Museum, formally opened with an invocation led by Francisca Olmedo-Arias. The opening remarks were delivered by Guillermo Luz. An audio-visual presentation written by Rovina Olmedo was shown, which depicted the late figurative expressionist artist's family background and his multi-awarded career.

A video presentation of various events in his life was also shown, serving as a backdrop for a musical rendition of the late artist's favorite song "All the Things You Are," rendered by his sister, Trixie Olmedo-Alfonso. A number that elicited a lot of chuckles from the audience was the delivery by Angel Santos, chairman of the related board of International World, of Onib's adolescent poem on the carnival of the Spanish conquistadores in the Philippines, entitled "Magellan."

Among the Onib Olmedo fans spotted at the exhibit were Zilda Cordero-Fernando, Silvana Diaz-Ortega, Antonio and Isabel Meloto, Amanda Bautista, Isabel Wilson, Annie Lopez, Cecilia Lopez, Ivan Lopez, Pandy Enrile, Aileen Antonio and Caroline Olivar, Chit Rocio, Carmen Flor, Manny Arriola, Gigi Olmedo's best friend, and his wife, book author Ito Capellan-Arriola; Linda Benigno, widow of Teddy Benigno; Sara Nieva, Onib's cousin-in-law; Amy Lucas of Gallery Ilustre; Onib's siblings Ingrosso and Mary Olivar, Peking Lampitang, Ramon "Patsy" and Jack Olmedo; and his in-laws, son-in-law Eric Antonio and sister-in-law Carmen Olmedo, with her daughter Joy.

THE ARTIST'S widow, Norma Olmedo, turns over to Pinky Aquino-Abellada a portrait of Ninoy Aquino done by Onib Olmedo, in the hang at the exhibit hall of Aquino Museum in Hacienda Luisita.

JANE Rodriguez poses with two award-winning paintings of Olmedo in Pretoria.

FORMER Philippine Ambassador to Spain Isabel Wilson, Guillermo Luz and Kit Zobel de Ayala

FORMER NCAA chief Jaime Laya and Ambassador Isabel Wilson

OMIB Olmedo's granddaughter Isabel Olmedo-Arias, Basti and Brianna Olmedo-Arimita

PANCIT Reglos, Carmen Olivar and Linda Lopez from Museum Volunteers of the Philippines

HERCEL and Chit Santos with Fe Capellan-Arriola

Museo Walo features 8 artists

By Ruby Kapunan
Correspondent

SCULPTURAL work by Bigyan

TO THE OPPOSE, the number eight symbolizes the totality of the universe, in the Egyptian, Judaism and the cosmic order, in Christianity, a new beginning, a new creation.

Opening last month at the 3rd floor of the Ibarlan Life Corporate Center in Alabang, Museo Walo has been showcasing the talents of eight living, legendary Filipino artists: architect Francisco "Bobby" Mañosa, landscape architect Ildefonso "Ipe" Santos, interior designer Romeo Lorenzo, painter Angelo Baja Leyva, painter Augusto "Upe" Bigyan, fashion designer Joel "Pitoy" Mariano, sculptor Michael Cacnio, furniture designer Bernardo Chocopedro and mixed media artist Benedicto "Ben-cab" Cabrera.

The eight artists are also involved in creating a new cultural landmark—the Bahá'í Project on Mount Makiling, where patrons will experience therapeutic baths through thermal mineral waters (balneotherapy).

The eight artists contributed to the creation of this landmark project in the Philippines as they translate the concepts of Bahá'í spiritual, artistic and life-nurturing environments into different art media.

Since Dec. 8, Museo Walo has been showcasing the works of Ipe Bigyan, whose skill and passion for Filipino pottery has produced sculptural as well as utilitarian works with names inspired therein. A preview of works by the seven other artists is also on show.

POTTERY by Bigyan

INSTALLATION art and (left) pottery by Ipe Bigyan

MUSEO Walo inaugurated in Ibarlan Life, Alabang

Joseph Reyes is curator of Museo Walo. A licensed interior designer, he earned post graduate degrees at St. John's University in Rome and at the University of Sto. Tomas in Manila. He also curates the 3D Ghadlee Museum and Sun Bota Alabang Museum.

Architect Ildefonso "Ipe" Santos is the museum copywriter, as Betsy Bautista of the museum's interior designer.

"Unlike other exhibitions, Museo Walo honors a permanent exhibition of these eight Filipino artists," Reyes said. "The museum's will also have other exhibits, without removing the exhibits of the eight."

From its current location at the Ibarlan Life Corporate Center, Museo Walo will be relocated to its permanent home at the Bahá'í Project on the foothills of Mt. Makiling.

Bahá'í Project, according to its proponents, will put the Philippines on the global map of the wellness industry and in the radar of international patrons of the arts. Sanctuary living, natural remedies and health havens.

"In the future, you live and experience Philippine culture, and you see the highest standard of Philippine art as a perfect living experience," said Ricky Cruzpa, CEO of Mitsuya's chain of Arts and Perfumes, which is launching.

Cruzpa said the Baha Project will be "the first true spa in the country." He said "spa" came from the Latin acronym "SPA" which means "sanus per aquam," it originated from the Roman Empire where battle-weary legionnaires used to find a way to recover from military wounds and ailments by sipping the Roman hot springs baths).

Meloto is the principal architect of Baha. Landscape will be done by National Artist for Landscape Architecture IP Santos. The interiors will be by Leroy and architect Boyet Prado.

Their works will be complemented by those of Bigyan, Pitoy Moreno, Cacnio, Cabrera and Bernabe.

Call Museo Walo at (632) 7748362 or (632) 7721867. E-mail museowalo@mediaone.net.

"KALEIDOSCOPE - Rolling Journey" by Frank "Carlo" Valencia

Valencia clan mounts exhibit

THE VALENCIA art clan, originally from Calatagan, Batangas, has produced three outstanding progenitors: Jose "Magno" C. Valencia Jr., the iconic senior and most well-known, one of the country's foremost master modernists with more than 300 group art shows to his credit; Franklin "Carlo" C. Valencia, now a full-time artist after more than a decade as head of the graphic studio of J. Romero and Associates, already a veteran of 55 group art shows and five one-man exhibits; and their nephew Jose Antonio "Antonio" Valencia Blanco, a Fine Arts graduate of the University of Santo Tomas.

The best of the recent works of these artists will be on display at the show "Valencia Art Clan 2" exhibit at the UA, Hamosons, Alabang Town Center, Muntinlupa City, which will open at 6:30 p.m. on Jan. 13 and will run until Jan. 5.

Collectors of Magno Valencia's works will no doubt be thrilled to see how his craft has progressed in the United States, which granted him an immigrant visa in 2004. Leaving behind a successful career as artist and advertising consultant, Magno promptly seized fresh opportunities in the United States, landing a position as portrait and caricature artist at Disneyland and at California Adventure, and at the same time regularly contributing watercolor art classes for appreciative Americans. He joined the Torrance Art Guild, where he quickly established a name for himself by winning the guild's monthly art competitions many times.

During Magno's absence, Carlo picked up the slack. Since 2001, he has participated in UA group art shows and has held five one-man exhibits. Like Magno, Carlo belongs to the Saturday Group and is easily one of its rising stars. Carlo and four other artists, formed the Quinta group of artists, with planned activities in Singapore this year and in New York in 2012. Already quite enchanted by his unique, sensual styles with a touch of realism, Carlo continues to impress in this exhibit with his technique of layering color upon color, creating overlapping, kaleidoscopic gradations of light and soft shadows.

For his part, Antonio is exciting us with his strokes. A late bloomer, he has greatly benefited from constant exposure to the works of his elders in the Saturday Group, and now also in Quinta. Unlike his uncles who are primarily watercolorists, Antonio prefers to paint in oil. Versatility and realism character his works, whose subjects range from subject matter to landscapes to barong-barongs to children. His most touching paintings are those modeled after his own kid, whom he strives to depict how those children imagine and perceive the world, and how they dream about it.

"KALEIDOSCOPE - Gazebo Charm," by Frank "Carlo" Valencia

Camacho and Taniguchi explore depth of field

By Mario Cosme
Cinch Buzz

TWO BLUE ruins from Tolos and two Loring Street is a gas—more like an aluminum of old art out, shapes on a bookshelf. Inside you will find Galleria Duemila, which marked its 10th year with an exhibition called "Material/Parallel" by artists Mario Taniguchi and Ben Camacho until Jan. 30 at Galleria Duemila, 2316 Loring St., Pasay City; tel. 8119901.

"Systems and objects and representation—these have been some big ideas, and in particular with the works," explained Camacho about the similarities between the work of the two artists, who were brought together by gallery owner Silvina Amrhein Dee. "And functionality of the image," Taniguchi said. "We share those few things and I think [it] was very intuitively recognized that."

Camacho's work tends to put up a front of avoidance and emotional disengagement, and by doing so allows for self-contemplation and attraction.

In spite of the suggestion of flight, or cold-air suspension, there is no fear to fall in the cold shapes that make up her series "Modular Fun"; the control Camacho employed obeys the rule of "symmetry" in architecture that Rene mastered. R. Pech (we combined pyramids resembling tribal prayer places that appear to have a "breaking out" from the paper on which it was laser etched), Camacho's works combine both minimum and expression, questioning an object's "either or" presence when it comes to dimensional presentation. "I like the ambiguity of the depth," Camacho explained, "that it's both a two-dimensional and three-dimensional thing, but also a three-dimensional drawing, because in the same time there's kind of that three-dimensionality of the objects having produced the image."

The somewhere-of-the-single-layer three-dimensional sculptures in the middle of the gallery's floor which the artists on paper have been spanned or molded appear to mock the laser markings that seem to forcefully try to justify a middle ground between dimensions in which to anchor themselves securely.

The forming of an object by the two pyramids does not imply its independence from the paper. "I don't think about it as putting it on the paper but I think of it as the paper itself as the object. It's a drawing but it's not in the sense that there is something applied to the paper."

That the work may be more appropriately considered as something closer to that of a sculpture than it performed and cut into textures Camacho's attempts to define objects in relation to space.

Unlike her past installation based on Rosenthal's electrical lighting systems, "Va Je Fes ne Sa" (there's this or the lake) or her figure-like series "Systema," Taniguchi presents five paintings of meticulously painted bricks, of which the "underlayment" pieces rarely deceptive. While simple and careful, the weight of these brick paintings are paradoxically overbearing to the observer of it.

Tapestry of bricks

Taniguchi's use of bricks for this series is taken from a work she did in 2008 called "D." Needing to create a "field," she employed the brick pattern because of its ability to look on the one hand like tapestry and like the other, digital. The multiple means through bricks can be perceived, like Camacho's pyramids, and fosters the questions of dimension to the viewer.

Bricks serve the purpose of construction, but when placed on paper and then removed from their function (as in Taniguchi's work), as we screen us with digital technology, their two-dimensional form allows them to be a pattern indepen dent of its primary purpose and yet possessing traits of versatility and malleability.

The bricks are isolated from their natural context and function. Through bricks, Taniguchi explores ideas of detachment and possibilities of expression beyond an object's primary purpose. "It could be something like floating in a virtual scenario."

"Both our works have a certain sense of efficiency. The works may seem not almost really abstract and visually detached from anything else outside of its own bounded fields, but I think this idea of being 'efficient' is so pertinent in a real world scenario," Taniguchi pointed out.

While their delineation, intention and purpose, these works seek autonomy in their aloofness; in the mass production of bricks and composed pyramids, these works would be celebrated artifacts. Their position otherwise would be perhaps supposed by the title "Material/Parallel," of which materials refuse to be bound in their singularity.

As Taniguchi's series title, "Untitled Warsaw," suggest, these objects are intensified in the form of the efficiency found in our mechanical processes, which are done toward perfection while we find flaws in our humanness. The overall quiescence of the works, the absence of explicit references to nature and the obedience to an almost pyramidic method of control by the two artists render even our most involuntary of human processes, such as breathing or blinking, somewhat out of place. The detachment and nudeness of the lines hint at our existence. The vertical brick patterns that subtly disrupt the horizontal percent to Taniguchi's works still have a strong adherence to order, unlike the typical scenario of an assortment of impulsively parked cars in a full-capacity parking lot.

Similarly, whereas Camacho's exchange maintain power over and responsibility bound by special connection, our interactions often admit incompetence and vulnerability.

A brilliant exhibition by two collaborating artists of global standing and admirable depth under the remaining days of the exhibit in Galleria Duemila an obligatory visit in which to compare ourselves and the carelessness of our homeowners amid the works that seem to exist without it.

WORK by Ben Camacho, painting [left] by Mario Taniguchi

Ben Camacho and Mario Taniguchi "Material/Parallel" runs until Jan. 30 at Galleria Duemila, 2316 Loring St., Pasay City; tel. 8119900

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"BATTLE of Ringbalanan," by Juanito Torres

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"EQUINOCIO Delights," by Jimmel Sarza

Galerie . . . from page D4

screen on the world famous Pagoda houses.

Bilbo presents three works specially painted for the occasion, namely "Sumo" and "Bicycle Ride," fantastic surrealist Morada painted "The Caged Rooster" and "Ang Ating Nakaraan."

Director de Pio's submission features a true ballerina image, having into a wide winged butterfly titled "Dance of the Butterfly."

Show runs until Jan. 25. Call 7259418, 7259553; visit www.galeriemajul.com

"ANGLATING Kalanasan," by Jerry Pinzada

Galerie Joaquin holds 9th anniversary show

GALERIE JOAQUIN Group opens its "Nine 9" exhibit on Jan. 12 at Art Center in Shi Megastall.

Featured are the outstanding works from artists represented by Galerie such as National Artist Federico Aguilar Alcuaz, Presidential Medal of Merit awardee Arsenio Sanson, Dimen Pastal, Lydia Velasco, Dominic Rubio, Joey Mendiola, Edvin Tito Reyes, Anna Reyes, Jennifer Rompalis, Alfe Pingol, Vincent de Pio, Aileen Lozada, Jomar Delbido, Pio Orillosiga, Anglers Pescador and Rolando Rasco IV, among others.

It also features works from artists who have recently started working with Galerie, such as Migz Villanueva, Anneliz Tizon, Glenn Quinquino, Rhodel Bravo, Ed Sakay and sculptor Gil Corcuera. Artists who have worked with Galerie, such as Ramon Orlina, Ronald de la Cruz, Michael Cacnio and Annelie Tizon, will have representative works as well.

Interesting mixed-media works by artist Ingrid Arbisteni abstract series while Tizon has two historically inspired paintings titled "The Blood Compact" and "The Battle of Pinaglabanan."

Artists Tito Reyes submitted the whimsical work "Urban Fantasy" with

"MASTATAWO," by Charlotte Rubio, at left, "Dance of the Butterfly," by Vincent de Pio

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THE NEW GENERATION OF SMARTPHONES and other digital devices can connect users to the Internet via the mobile phone. But what often keeps subscribers from making the most of their phone's social capabilities is the perceived high cost of mobile Internet connectivity.

Led by its desire to provide solutions for every customer need, Smart Communications recently launched two unique value packs and affordable data products that will give subscribers more seamless access to the Internet on their mobile phones. It now offers mobile Internet packages to suit every consumer's needs, whether for quick use or long durations.

"With Smart's new lower mobile Internet rates, accessing the Internet through their mobile phones is now more affordable. This will benefit both Smart Buddy and Smart Gold subscribers and empower them to make the most of their handsets that may be capable of more than just call and text. Internet as a way of life becomes a reality as they can surf the web anywhere even without a PC."

explained Smart Chief Wireless Advisor Orlando B. Vea.

Smart prepaid subscribers will now be able to browse the Internet at only P1 per minute when they have a load of P10 or less. This new price gives subscribers—who may not have enough load for the standard rate of P15 for every 30 minutes—an opportunity to do Internet on the fly, such as simply checking or updating their social network status or e-mail. They no longer have to worry about not having enough load to access the Internet. For a minimum of P3 (or three minutes of web browsing) remaining airtime, you can check your various social networking site accounts, search for great shopping deals, or maybe even see when the next showing of the biggest movie will be.

The possibilities are limitless, the cost really low, and all these right at your fingertips.

Equally good news awaits Smart's postpaid subscribers who may now apply for unlimited data plans bundled with the latest handsets. Unlike other providers, Smart has partnered with several vendors to give best-value offers to its subscribers. Leading handset brands have expressed the desire to partner with Smart because of its leadership position in mobile data. Smart's exciting new packages include the Nokia N8 free at Data Plan 3000, Samsung's Galaxy Tab free at Data Plan 3000, and the HTC Mozart Windows 7 free at Data Plan 4000.

Smart's Head of Wireless Consumer Division Danilo J. Mojica said "the new more affordable rates for using Internet on their mobile phone gives subscribers more freedom to connect with loved ones and associates around the world, giving them true mobile connectivity from Smart."

"The new more affordable rates for using Internet on their mobile phone gives subscribers more freedom to connect with loved ones and associates around the world, giving them true mobile connectivity from Smart."

DANILO J. MOJICA
Smart Head of Wireless Consumer Division

What they say...

Smartphone subscriptions are rising and so too is the subscriber base for mobile data, owing to the Data device that can connect to the Internet any time any where. Social networking sites have become very big business instead, with sites such as Facebook and Twitter linking people all over the world now the dominant form of communication.

It's a trend that's set to continue. Cheaper browsing access in new possible with SMART Communications' two value pack and affordable Data products.

This is SMART's way of making sure that everyone can connect with no more hindrance in browsing the Internet.

Smart is my personal brand. I like their act of packaging themselves in a way that presents a clear image and a message to an audience. It matters what you like in a cell phone. Having easier access to the Internet via Smart has sparked my interest as no other way has ever done. It's all about connecting online – fast, (very) affordable and easy!

MARGARITA RIVERA
Sales Account Manager

Early this year, Smart gave us TGIFriendly where we were able to surf for free for eight Fridays. Now Smart comes out with P1 per minute browsing. Truly Smart leads the way in providing affordable browsing products out in the market.

GABBI ALBA
Sales Agent

Imagine SMART coming out with great data plans that makes it easier for people to connect in various venues! SMART is really smart enough to listen to our wishes throughout the year!

MARIANN DY
Tutor

It's going to be fun! I'm a SMART prepaid user. The potential to connect with no hassles across the Internet is vast!

EYA SANCHEZ
Freelance artist

It's certainly new that SMART has this great innovation-value pack and affordable Data products both for prepaid and postpaid subscribers. I can now apply for the unlimited Data Plans. In my mind, the real value is bringing people closer together.

JUN SANTOS
Call Center agent

If I were to come up with a set of words that best describes SMART, the list would include the following: Fast, innovative, connecting, true, interacting, listening, collaborating and sharing.

MONICH LOZADA
College student

SMART GOLD

SMART Buddy

LIFESTYLE Arts&Books

First comprehensive catalogue of art collection to be launched Jan. 17

UST Museum marks 140th year with show of restored visual arts holdings

AT THE University of Santo Tomas some time in the 2011, the UST Museum of Arts and Sciences celebrates also the 140th anniversary of its formal establishment at the old campus in Intramuros, Manila, in 1871 by Bro. Fr. Ramon Martinez Vigil, OP.

To mark the two very historic occasions, the UST Museum is mounting the exhibit "Visual Lifeof Grace," until Jan. 19. It showcases the important, invaluable pieces of the visual arts collection that overall presents a total map of the development of the visual arts and of art education in the Philippines from the late 19th century to the 21st century.

Artists represented range from those in the 19th century when the Church was the

[illegible]

Oldest museum gives public a peek to its priceless art collection

By Fr. Isidro C. Abaño, OP
Contributor

Excerpts from the introduction to the UST Museum's visual arts catalogue to be launched on Jan. 17.

THE ENDERTEVO banner image depicts two angels carrying baskets of brightly colored flowers and fruits which they are about to shower upon the earth. These angels are actually part of the huge stained glass **graphic portrait of the premiere Mary Magdalene** attributed to and signed by Juan Arias Jr. on 1783 & on 1870. The showering of flowers and fruits in an allusion to the rituals of flowers and graces which flow down from their celestial abode.

These graces do not remain only in the realm of symbols but certainly are con-

[illegible]

GARFIELD BY JIM DAVIS

A. UPIN BY JESS ABRERA

PUGAD BABOY BY PH LANDE

DICK TRACY

LOVEBOTS BY ELIZABETH KOMONIBUS

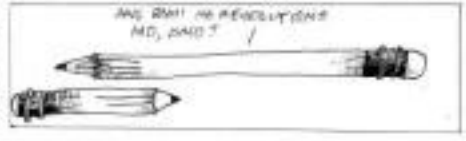
BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT

KIKO MACHINE BY FRANCO ABRERA

SEN BY DANIEL SHELTON

SHERMAN'S LAGOON BY JIM TOOMEY

TULDOK BY PAENG COLI



Lagang mahirap ng pinoy sa SONA: 19.65 AM | 9.65 AM | 1.00 PM Lunes hanggang Biyernes

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DIMIRU

YOU BORN TODAY You're strong, powerful and confident, where all matters. Considered by others as wealthy. You are diligent in what they really do and you put their priorities at others. However, it's important for you to earn the respect of others, especially your boss. Remember this: to be your friend, you take friendship will be blessed. 2011 is an unusually lucky friendly year!

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Hold the phone! Expect plans outlandish and be interrupted today or tomorrow. Whatever with higher education also will go underway in a New York minute. Be prepared.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Stay in touch with your best friends or anything hard to do with your family. Be patient with personalities. Romance surprises are in store for you. This is a romantic calendar day.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Love surprises and excitement and close friendships together bonding today. Definitely people and the important your friends and home independence! This entails new things!

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Something at work or in your daily tasks will make you happy and accomplished today. Expect assignments, responsibilities, hurdles, communications and a romantic surprise. Be cool.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) Love: This is an excellent period for you or children at the children to your side. Be extra careful with your health as it is especially prone at times. (Better in the afternoon only.)

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) Things will be somewhat at home today. Small adventures maybe known down. Some romantic excitement. You might have the best. Some coincidences are likely as well. Fun!

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) This challenge is an exercise. Be extra careful with your health as it is especially prone at times. Be extra careful when driving or walking. (Avoid drugs!)

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Good news today! You might have money on hand. When paired now, protect more against theft or loss. It's a very unpredictable day!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You're sentimental and all of this period this today. It's hard to keep everything together, so business things keep going sideways! Move early time for whatever you have to do today! Remodel is extraordinary!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) You're definitely working today! You have that feeling that you're waiting for the other shoe to drop. And it does! It will work out!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) Friends or members of groups will surprise you today. Jealousy could be everything from any direction. You also might even accidentally say or do or say something that shocks you.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) Stay alert of arguments with loved ones and self-worthy friends today. Don't start your day job. People are unpredictable and emotional! Naturally, the tendency is

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Tips and programs at www.sudoku.com

Concepts Sudoku — By Steve Eckert

7								4
	2			6				
		3	5	8		1	9	
		6		7	2	5		8
	5	8				9	2	
4		2	8	5		6		
	8	4		2	3	7		
				9			8	
1								6

Difficulty Level: ●

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

"ANNUNCIATION," by Gaio Ocampo

"SANTA Maria Magdalena," by Juan Arizon

Oldest museum gives public . . .

From page B1

evenly manifested in the existence of UST spanning four centuries (1611-2011). This precious endowment includes the UST Museum that houses and cares for the important visual arts collection, particularly paintings, which has become a vital step in the development of art production and art training in the Philippines.

To give an idea of the extent of its collection, the museum comes out for the first time with a comprehensive catalogue of its visual arts collection in various media, such as watercolor, oil, acrylic, charcoal and mixed media.

Art scholar Ma. Victoria Herrera explains that the UST Museum's collection is a fascinating cross-section of art history, divided roughly into four eras. Dates the 18th century to the 20th century. The first group refers to the period during the 18th to the early 19th centuries, when the Church was the foremost art patron and paintings were created mainly for religious purposes and not artistic enjoyment, hence the preponderance of unsigned but important artworks. The exception here is the UST Museum's portrait of Mary Magdalene which is signed by the artist Juan Arizo.

The second group marks the birth of formal art training in the country, when art schools and guilds were formed and 19th century economic progress allowed the middle class to commission paintings and thereby usher in a socio-cultural context to visual arts in the Philippines extending up to the start of the 20th century. Among the works in the museum's collection representing this group are Juan Luna's "Italian Soldier" and "Playa de Katwiran"; Felix Resurreccion Hidalgo's works including "Cocina de Bretaña," "Cancan de Montmartre," "Estudio I" and "Estudio II" and Miguel Zaragoza's "Landscape I" and "Landscape II."

The third group represents the star of artists who were products of the Academia de Bellas and who subsequently formed and set training in the academe during the 20th century. The UST Museum has a fine representation of this period with five works by Isabel Enriquez, including "An Aeta," "Portrait of Prof. H. Miguel," and "The Bridge of Sighs"; Fabian de la Rosa's "Filipina" and a "Portrait of A Girl," and 14 works by Teodoro Buenaventura. Also included are eight works by Fernando Amorsolo, among them "Portrait of Miss Asun Infante," "Portrait of Sec Fr. Silvestre Sinibaldo, OP" "Portrait of Miss Virginia Grant" and "Portrait of Pres. Osvaldo Macapagal"; and two Pablo Amorsolo works, "Fruit Vendor" and "Limpia Botas."

The fourth group features the works of the early Modernists, who broke away from the classical tradition and explored new modes of expression, with the leaders of this artistic movement making UST their home: Victorio Edades' "Dr. José Rizal" and "Portrait of Fr. Francisco Matas, OP"; Vicente Manansala's "Wrestling Boat" and "Dressed Ship"; nine works by Bienvenido Pagsanjan, including "Portrait of Fr. Buenaventura Garcia Paredes, OP" "Herdsmen," and "Harvest Festival"; 16 works by Cub Ocampo such as "Bronze Madonna," the triptych of "Annunciation, Nativity and Adoration by the Three Kings"; and 11 works by Carlos "Botong" Francisco such as "Under the Mango Tree," "Pastoral," "Harana" and "Oracion." Furthermore, Manansala, Destajo and Francisco had shared chief UST's role in Philippine history with their rich formal art contribution.

Recognizing its great responsibility and vital role in conserving these artworks for future generations, the oldest museum in the country embraces technological advances to stay a step ahead in terms of art/artist management, education and conservation. The UST Museum is one of the first to employ a computerized database designed specifically for its collection, including a detailed data entry system with the object's full description, condition report and collection management information.

It has also embarked on a conservation campaign for the collection that makes use of its own conservation laboratory; painstaking efforts have already yielded great rewards, with the conservation of 12 very important pieces out of over 900 pieces in the collection.

These include breathtaking artworks such as the celebrated "Portrait of a Young Baliwasan Girl" by Bienvenido Locsin, the "Portrait of Bishop Antonio Zulaybar" attributed to Juan Arizo, "Dr. José Rizal" by Victorio Edades, "Franz Venahar" by Pablo Amorsolo and "The Foundation of the University of Santo Tomas by Archbishop Miguel de Benavides" by R. Tolic that were in the painting competition during the 300th anniversary of the University of Sto. Tomas in 1911. And, very recently the controls depicting the history of UST by Antonio SANTA Gliman in the lobby of the UST Main Building, have undergone extensive cleaning and minor restoration, an effort that adds luster to the National Cultural Treasure home because the UST Main Building by the National Museum in 2010.

"YOUNG Baliwasan Girl," by Bienvenido Locsin

"ANGELUS," by Carlos Francisco

"NATIVITY," by Gaio Ocampo

"SPITTED," by Ronald Ventura

"CENTUERO del Nacural," by Felix Resurreccion Hidalgo

UST Museum marks . . .

From page B1

foremost art patron (Juan Arizo), to the masters of the late 19th century and of the early 20th century (Juan Luna, Fr. H. Resurreccion Hidalgo, Miguel Zaragoza); the masters of the 20th century (Fabian de la Rosa, Fernando Amorsolo, Pablo Amorsolo, Rafael Enriquez); the early Philippine modernist (Carlos "Botong" Francisco, Cube Ocampo, Victorio Manansala); and emergent voices, such as the winners of the annual UST Inter-School Painting Competition (Ronald Ventura, Alfredo Esquillo, Ivan Rosma, Mark Salvatus, etc.).

On display also will be recently restored artworks such as the celebrated "Portrait of a Young Baliwasan Girl," by Bienvenido Locsin; "Portrait of Bishop Antonio Zulaybar," attributed to Juan Arizo; "Dr. José Rizal," by National Artist Victorio Edades; "Franz Venahar," by Pablo Amorsolo; and "The Foundation of the University of Santo Tomas by Archbishop Miguel de Benavides," by R. Tolic, which won the painting competition held to mark the 300th anniversary of UST in 1911.

Their restoration was funded in great part by generous donors and benefactors through the annual Christmas Concert Gala that has been co-chaired by Marivic Zobel since 2009.

In connection with the UST Quadricentennial and 340th anniversary of UST Museum, the UST Museum will launch the first comprehensive mus-

"PORTRAIT of Rev. Fr. Rolando de la Rosa, OP," by Fred Baquilos

"ADORATION by the Three Kings," by Gaio Ocampo

logue of its visual art collection on Jan. 17.

For more information, call the *UST Museum at 7811015 or 4063611 local 8260 and ask for Rod de Leon.*

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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Emmie G. Velarde

Robert de Niro heads Cannes film fest jury

PARIS—Hollywood heavyweight Robert De Niro will head the jury at this year's Cannes film festival to be held on May 11-22, organizers said on Thursday. "As ambassador of the Tribeca Film Festival and the Doha Tribeca Film Festival, I have an increased appreciation for the jury who chooses films representative of the world of film at its highest level," De Niro said in a statement. Reuters

Heart: Tita Annabelle loved me

By Marinel R. Cruz

ACTRESS-HEART Evangelista said she is just waiting for "things to cool down" before making a move to reconcile with her talent manager Annabelle Rama.

"One can be bad when she's angry, but when she loves you, she really gives her all. In fairness to her, I'm Annabelle really did love me," the actress told Inquirer Entertainment during the launch of "DreamDiva," her newest show on GMA 7.

"She felt hurt. I understand her, that's why even if she keeps saying a lot of things I just shut up," said Heart.

In October, Rama lashed out at Heart and the actress' mother Cristy Fermin for their decision not to renew their commanagement contract with Rama when it expires this year.

"She's not ungrateful. She was nothing when I received her contract," said Rama in a previous interview. "Now that she's earning a lot, she has become conceited."

The actress said she has not had the chance to "totally out" to Ruffa during the holidays. "Marami pa kasi ang sya sya," Heart explained. "What my family decided na do was to not say anything negative about her. I hope she appreciates na hindi kami komsha-hsh."

Heart admitted that the tension in her relationship with Rama has affected her friendship with the latter's children, particularly Raymond and Ruffa.

Better year

Heart is hopeful that 2011 will be a better year for her. "I want to start the year right. I missed acting," the star last seen in the drama series "Langit sa Piling Mo," which aired its last episode in September. "I'm very excited with 'DreamDiva.' It's a good show for kids. I enjoy doing it."

"DreamDiva" is a fantasy-drama inspired by the stories of "Pinambansa" and "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs." It follows the magical adventures of Tina, a girl barely the size of a finger, and how she finds her place in both the mortal and supernatural realms. Mike Tan directs.

Dennis Trillo, who was once romantically linked to Heart, is now her on-screen partner. "This project will hopefully erase the air for us. I was telling the coach when I said exciting, happened between us when we did 'Mano Po.' Parang eto yun! (Show business.)," Heart explained. "I'm being very careful now that he's with Jennylyn [Mercado]."

In December 2009, Heart admitted to having received "nasty" text

MORE E2

Celeb delights, regrets in 2010

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

I TOOK a much needed break in Boracay last week, so this is officially my first column for 2011. I left all my excess emotional baggage in "Borasiao" because I intend to travel with a light heart this year.

But before moving forward, we must look back at the year that was. So I asked celebs what they love and regret the most about 2010.

As for me, the best part of 2010 was my being in role mayors. I always come home as a happier person after each stint.

What I wish I didn't do last year was give my full emotional investment to people who didn't value it enough. That too-giving.

If there's one thing I learned from my mom and my idol MJ, it's to give, give, give and forgive, forgive, forgive. Here's to a better and brighter 2011 for all of us. May love and joy hop along with you this first of the Kuneho.

Korina Sanchez: "What I love most about 2010 are the new heirloom that opened and the changes and the challenges that came with new territory. I got married to Mar, unexplained for an television, traveled, started yoga and Pilates, nurtured my cherished relationships, left and got back to mainstream journalism. It was an awesome ride! I have no regret anything in 2010 except for a few mean and betrayal issues that otherwise made me wiser. I believe I lived 2010 to its maximum potential."

Gloria Diaz: "My work on TV and in the movies are what I loved about last year. I regret I didn't do more."

Ogie Alcasid: "Of course, my wedding was the best part of 2010. It was the answer to all my prayers. Regrets have never been in my vocabulary (read all the time)."

Jolina Magdangal: "Getting my 25 years in show biz. I don't regret anything."

Jaclyn: "No regrets in 2010. The highlight of my life last year was going solo. It was unplanned as my exit but clearly it was God's plan. Maybe that's why everything's been so blessed. I fell into place and my love for me but also for people close to me."

Rachel Alejandro: "The thing I loved the most about the past year was that I finally found the man I'm going to marry soon after we met. I knew in my heart I would always be his. What I regret is that I had to say good-bye to someone. I also loved it was very peaceful and I still cry about it sometimes. But that's just the way life is. Sometimes we have to give something up to gain something else."

Michael Murrell (Miss Faith vocalist): "What I loved most about 2010 is that we released our best album yet, 'Love, Pseudo,' which I believe is our most cohesive work ever. What I regret most is that I missed watching Team Ice Pears, 'Cats' and Dreams Worlds."

Bo Gonzalez: "The unwavering support of my family through all my ups and downs in 2010 is what I love most. It was my most challenging year yet and I'm glad it's over, though I don't regret anything at this point. I actively consider it as a genuine learning experience. I can only move forward."

Lit Kamperdeon: "I value the new opportunities and challenges which came my way in 2010. I enjoyed working with a new staff and meeting new friends. I have no regrets at all because I believe everything happens for a reason. I take each downfall as a learning experience. The worst things can turn into the best things in the end."

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Heart: Tita...

From page E1

messages from actress Cristine Reyes, Iwami' girlfriend at the time. Cristine was reportedly jealous of Heart, who had worked with Dominic in "Marry Me, I Swear" and Cristine had already speculated, "I don't want someone who's in, Jennylyn and I are OK. I make sure that she knows everything," Heart added.

It also helps that Heart is very much in love with her Japanese-Brazilian boyfriend, actor Daniel Matsunaga. "I'm more at peace now. We've been together for six months. Everything is smooth-sailing. I don't even remember us fighting about anything. My relationship with him is different from those I've had in the past which are all high-profile."

Heart and Daniel first met in May 2009 on the set of "Laugh to Kilig Ito," where Daniel is also a cast member. "We both want simple things. My previous boyfriends would give me expensive Louis Vuitton bags as gifts. It's not really about the money. Your Louis Vuitton will not keep you from crying at night when your relationship starts to get rocky."

Simple gifts

Heart added: "Our Christmas gifts to each other were very simple but well thought-of because Daniel also considers really delicious Brazilian dish his ex. I once had it for a relationship every night."

Before she met Daniel, Heart had a short-lived relationship with Sen. Sly Ejercito of Aliens some as fa-

ebels.

"I feel good about myself these days. I'm happy, healthy and excited about work," she said.

"Detachful" premieres today at nine o'clock. Heartmarks Pa" on the VMA. Idolized since idol.

Cliff Abaid

Celeb...

From page E1

long you become a model ... ate a stronger and wiser person."

Sheilalu: "2010 ang pinakamaraming issue nawawala ng all the good bonds. Pff, grow ate. Wala kasi sa mine na ang lifestyle the kind-hearted. Mere Edmundo and her ex Smid Lyode is also such a blessing because dito nabuksan ko ang aking mga mata sa ibang mga bagay. Hindi ko rin naiwasan ang mga pagkakamali ko. Kaya lesson dahil sila ang unang nagsabi sa akin. I forgive some of the blind items I said on 'Juicy' like na ito ang about Cristine and Derek that manifest to info and the data, walang sorry ako sa kanila."

E-mail: [illegible]

Bill Carreon

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Ang inyong walang patid na pagtangkilik ang aming inspirasyon sa patuloy na paghahatid ng mga programang inyong kababaliwan, tututukan at pagkakatiwalaan.

EUREKA in New Zealand F4

National Autism Week schedule of activities F4

LEARNING
Editor Chelo Bansil-Tiemsin
Email: learning@inquirer.com.ph

Billy The Kid, aka Abueva

The artist has sculpted a gun that spits fresh roses instead of live bullets

By Virginia R. Moreno
Contributor

THIS IS a true story.

One Elie in the Cinema Europa Film Festival opened to a letter told Christmas Eve scene in No Man's Land, when a truce was declared between the high commands of World War I foes.

The boom of cannons, rifle fire, and last cries of the wounded...ceased—stopped. An eerie silence fell, thereon immediately through snow falling on the black earth of

THE ARTIST gets a pink rose from an admirer.

"ABUEVA" author Cid Reyes (left), artist Sanso (center), with the author to his left and diplomats and other guests (above). The Bird (right)

the battleground.

Breaking the silence, startling both the audience and the enemy camp, were the first bars of "Stille Nacht," the universal Christmas carol "Silent Night" in German. Shocked before, they recognized the melody they were hearing, were the English composers echoing back "Silent Night," there, gloriously, all tongues of Europe.

We heard were not the emergence of hooted soldiers marching but the shuffling of the pious in a procession. Both camps converging in mid. It's Man's Land, shouting and toasting each other, drinking their share of cognac-spiced beer and wine—the jolly Good Fellows from their home towns.

At sunrise, the truce ended.

Guns and roses

It's as...one-fourth of this festival's audience who were children during World War II, what could match that

year and one Christmas Eve's cordial event of peace and goodwill to men, is the story of The Bird, aka Napoleon's d'Abueva, named after the conqueror Napoleon, nicknamed Billy, who sculpted a rose gun that spits fresh roses instead of live bullets.

"I played hide-and-seek in our town's cemetery, "he tells of his boyhood during the war, adding "often, hide and hide where there was no kid."

His audience, his enraged classmates in the University of the Philippines then School of Fine Arts, pitch in with stories of their own improvised games and reinforced playgrounds:

Jaremar "Jerry" Santos, in his family's Arte Español from Furniture Workshop. But when the teacher Ice Plant an raid came stopped, he was ecstatically freed to wade through the heavy and Paradahuan sentiments of congregations among father folk. His was his elegy to this love scrapage in his course for his boyhood chum, dreamy 50's SM Connection Basil Valdez).

Athletes homemade, aggressive or handyman, still the most envied, among shelves of paint cans and brushes or on roof sheet, skirting around the tree model in his father's, Professor Fernando Amorsolo, studio.

Jose "Pepe" R. Moreno climbing up and down our rotting high pencil of lightning rod stocks, roaming over and over those fat, precious bags against the threat of famine. The roosting, for all the children in our warehouse, was both a war diary and a game soon enough ended.

Before the April fall of Bataan, those killed of our ranks lay emptied and flattened on the floor, good only for used bags around our air-raid shelter where no one could play.

Carlito Amorsolo (later of the Hail and Amen Rubber Clan), with his sisters Vida and Jenny, could gingerly step out, relieve the toilet-save chore, to their

TURN TO PAGE F2

E-MAIL FROM READERS

Rantings about UP sports and Cherokee legend

I HAVE always wanted to write a letter to the Opinion section regarding the state of sports in the University of the Philippines but couldn't seem to start writing until I read your article.

In the late '70s, UP did not offer scholarships to athletes, but paid living allowances only at the club university was already considered a privilege then. I was a varsity player for volleyball, athletics and basketball throughout my college years, and I became a member of the Philippine women's basketball team in the late '80s.

In those days, the UAAP board allowed athletes to be in multiple sports, especially if the sports were played in leagues, semesters apart, e.g., volleyball was a first-semester event and athletics, second semester.

UP athletes always borrowed players from different sports. I was recruited for high-jump and long-jump because of my height and ability to jump. For throwing and running events, they used to recruit from the basketball team. Coaches taught us the rudimentary skills and techniques so we could give a decent performance in our events. We were all team players regardless of the sport we played.

UP was able to attract good athletes then even without offering scholarships because people believed an elite university could match the quality of education and the moral thinking that UP could give. And the state university only needed to provide the facilities—conducive for playing the sports its students enjoyed.

Sports today is harder in terms of recruitment. Schools cannot just rely on scholarships to rope up good athletes. They have to do right housing and allowances to attract players.

Last February, the UP College of Human Kinetics asked me to be the assistant coach for the women's basketball team, the Lady Maroons. I accepted the offer for the simple reason that this would be an opportunity for me to say back the university that helped me be what I am today and to pay forward to a sport that has shaped my career.

This would also be a chance to teach the ladies not only the fundamental skills of basketball but life skills as well, as sports is the best metaphor for life.

But I was saddened by what I saw upon my return to UP (after so many years), particularly by the sad state of the gym. The washrooms did not have running water. What caused the shower to be nonexistent? Is it unsafe for the athletes? It isn't totally bad just because there was no water but also because the flushing mechanisms were not working. Whenever it rained, the floor got so flooded you could declare the gym a state of calamity. The football field was the same. I personally know the coach and he told me that he always prayed for good weather. Now, my players were booked at the Alumni Hall and they were squeezed into too-tiny small room.

One time, I invited the UP women's basketball team (Elden Cloth) to play in a tournament hosted by International School Manila, where I am a sports coach. I showered them to the locker room so they could change. Upon taking a third look inside, the "locker" afford not a sight—I guess of disbelief—because the students' locker room was, to say the least, air-conditioned.

In my opinion, a university does not have to offer material things to college players because that College athletes only want good education and playing time. But it is the school's responsibility to take care of their athletes by providing them good facilities for sports. Just to make a point, the UP men's basketball team gets more money compared to the rest of the varsity teams combined and yet it has only won one championship throughout the history of UAAP.

So what really is the problem with the UP sports program?

A flooded gym, nasty smelling comfort rooms, a tiredly football field, un-running water, smelly and clogged bathrooms, etc. With the miserable state of its sports facilities, the answer to the question of how UP can attract recruits is a no-brainer. Other universities are not just offering quality education, they also have good, if not the best, facilities for sports, including sleeping quarters for their athletes. How can UP compete with that?

You know how athletes are, you can throw them the nastiest weights around and they will still love them just as long as they get to have playing time, but it is a different story when coming gets canceled when it rains (we have no roof over the gym) and unplayable. Training programs also get disrupted and injuries happen because of bad gym floors.

Give them quality sports facilities! UP athletes will not only feel important, they will also be motivated to do better in their choice of sport. When athletes are motivated, they are energized, and when the players are energetic, they tend to be happier.

I do not know how the UP system works and I don't care about the politics. But one thing is definite: We are not losing in basketball alone, we are also losing in other sports because we are steadily losing in the battle of recruiting good athletes due to the sorry state of our sports facilities.

Eva Celestino
UP varsity volleyball team, 1977
UP women's basketball team, 1980

Editor's Reply

Thank you Ms. Eva for your opinion on our lessons in Education (EDUC) social reading program, which featured this story "Legend of the Pony's Tears."

I hope you are aware that the lessons have been circulating on-line in the Learning section since 2006 and "Pony's Tears" was actually our fourth lesson. I wonder why you had nothing to say about the previous 7 learning devices.

Also, I will not apologize for having published a story written in English. That's what we do in an English-language newspaper like the Inquirer.

You've taken us to task for opposing Filipino students in the Filipino American experience, which is the basis of our social reading program.

UP, SLU group making reading program for lessons in Ang Kuwento ng "Onse Libro si Legend" na kasalukuyang isinasagawa sa mga piling Learning Centers sa buong Pilipinas.

Isang programang may layuning mapalawak ang kaalaman ukol sa mga kapatiran at pagpapahalaga sa pamilihan. Ang kuwentong ginagamit ay ang "Legend of the Pony's Tears," na isinulat ni Cid Reyes at iginuhit ni Mary Madelon Bautista, at Ricky Shelbert (Pinoy Kabalat) ay nagpapakita ng mga pakikipagsapalaran ng isang batang Indian, dahil sa pagkamatay ng mga ponies na kanyang inaalagaan. Ang pakikipagsapalaran ng batang si Ojo ay nagtuturo ng mga aral sa mga batang Native American pati na rin sa mga batang nandirito.

Pero sa akin, nagkulang ka dahil wala ang mga ponies sa mga pinaguusapan. Sa unang mabasa ang kuwento ay parang ang mga ponies ay nawawala lang sa kahit saan at walang nagsasabi kung ano ang nangyari. Ang mga ponies ay nawala dahil sa mga pangyayari sa kuwento. Ang mga ponies ay nawala dahil sa mga pangyayari sa kuwento. Ang mga ponies ay nawala dahil sa mga pangyayari sa kuwento.

mainam ko lamang, gaano ka ka kaalaman ng mga bata sa mga kapatiran ang mga bata sa ating kasalukuyang panahon? Sa pagbasa ko, nauunawaan ng mahusay ang mga damdamin. Napakaganda ng kuwento. Sa akala ni Dean Forester na "Popular Tales," dinapat nga ang napakaraming aklat at kuwentong dapat Gayunpaman, dapat tinuli sila ang gamitin sa pagturo at pagkatuto at (sakit) ito sa ating mga scholastic dagdag ang tungkol sa Cherokee at Pinoy ng mga Native American? Ingles ng mga Native American?

Ang mga ponies ay nawala dahil sa mga pangyayari sa kuwento. Ang mga ponies ay nawala dahil sa mga pangyayari sa kuwento. Ang mga ponies ay nawala dahil sa mga pangyayari sa kuwento.

Editor's reply

Thank you Mr. Cruz for your opinion on our lessons in Education (EDUC) social reading program, which featured this story "Legend of the Pony's Tears."

I hope you are aware that the lessons have been circulating on-line in the Learning section since 2006 and "Pony's Tears" was actually our fourth lesson. I wonder why you had nothing to say about the previous 7 learning devices.

Also, I will not apologize for having published a story written in English. That's what we do in an English-language newspaper like the Inquirer.

You've taken us to task for opposing Filipino students in the Filipino American experience, which is the basis of our social reading program.

TURN TO PAGE F2

Playgrounds for the MIND

Member Schools

Bonifacio Estates, Global City Innovative College make Bonifacio Global City a greener place

BONIFACIO ESTATE Services Corp. (BESC) and Global City Innovative College (GCIC) last month the Bonifacio Global City (BGC) community in an annual tree planting activity held in selected sites within the area. Over 300 people, composed mainly of BESC officers, employees of BGC establishments, BGC residents, and GCIC administrators, students, and faculty took part in the activity that aimed to make Bonifacio Global City a greener place for everyone. The event was attended by BESC general manager Gerardo Ablaza and GCIC president Mike Tan.

Prior to the tree planting, a short program was held at the Bonifacio High School highlighted by a short talk by environmentalist and former transportation secretary Elisea "Gabby" Gozun. She discussed the status of the Philippine environment and encouraged everyone to do their part in preserving Mother Nature. Encouraging the planting of saplings indigenous to the Philippines, Gozun also gave a short conference on how to plant a tree properly to ensure its proper growth.

As tree-planting activities were being conducted in vacant lots near Market! Market! and Arya Residences, Tan attended a workshop on creative ways to recycle tetra paks.

"This is the first time GCIC has joined BESC in a community tree-planting activity, and we're happy to have been chosen as an activity partner," said Jill Bautista, BGC head of marketing. "Since schools highlight their facilities, faculty profiles, curriculum and methods of teaching, partnerships, and career pathways as their program strengths. At GCIC, we have these but we called to show that the purpose of education is not just simply to learn to earn a living, but to live. This includes living with a sense of accountability for others, including Mother Nature."

GCIC has also the flexibility of adapting to the changing needs of the times, bolstered with the good solid foundations of the old. Engineer Michael Tan, president of GCIC, said: "We want our students to be successful not only in their professional life. We don't just teach our students competency but build passion in character as well."

After the tree planting activity, all the participants were treated to hearty snacks courtesy of Krispy Kreme – Bonifacio High Street, and Jollibee Bonifacio Global City.

Congressional internship for young Mindanaoans

CO-AMBASSADORS Mario Thomas Jr. and Nicole Sandee Velasco (standing 4th from left) were among the Young Mindanao Leaders who participated recently in the Congressional Internship Program for Young Mindanao Leaders. The internship is managed by USAID's Growth with Equity in Mindanao (GEM) Program and implemented in partnership with the House of Representatives. The partnership between the United States Agency for International Development and young people from Mindanao is aimed to effect two concurrent aims with the opportunity to gain first-hand experience on public policy formulation, and to enhance further communications between civic unions and institutions. USAID's GEM Program is implemented under the oversight of the Mindanao Development Authority.

CEU Community Outreach head is Pawel president

CEBU TECHNOLOGICAL University Community Outreach Department head Dr. Rolando B. Pawel is the new president of the Philippine Association of Social Workers Inc. (Pawel). Also head of the Social Action Program of the School of Education, Arts and Sciences, Music, and Social Work, and chairman board member of the Regional Association for Social Work Education, Dr. Pawel is a member of several social work organizations—the National Association of Schools of Social Work, Philippine Association of Social Work Educators Inc., and National Association of Social Work Education Inc. She is also a member of the Philippine Association for Graduate Education of Schools, Colleges, and Universities and the vice president for research and of the CEU Research and Development Foundation Inc.

Southville calls on TOPS for last leg of exams

THE LAST LEG of competitive examinations for Southville International School and Colleges' Top Outstanding Performing Students (TOPS) will be held Jan. 15 and 22. The TOPS scholarship is granted to young students who graduated with an outstanding grade in the high school level in the country. Scholarships are granted for the following courses: AB Mass Communication, AB Media Arts, AB Business Administration major in Human Resource Management, Marketing Management, Marketing Management with BS Entrepreneurship, Human Resource Management with BS Psychology, BS Information Technology, BS Nursing, BS Psychology, BS Tourism and Bachelor of Elementary Education with Special Education Major in Early Childhood (SPED). Call Family Life Center office at 8228360 to 8 local 1100 or e-mail pr@southville.edu.ph for more information. Application forms are now available at the Public Relations Office or SSC and downloadable at www.southville.edu.ph.

SDCA wins journalism awards in conference

APPLYWINNING. Consultants during the 2nd Cavite-wide Higher Education Press Conference and School Institute organized by the Southville Association of Tertiary Press Advisers (Satpa). Seminars and Satellite Group of Publications (SDC), the official student publications of St. Dominic College of Asia (SDCA), won awards in both group and individual contests during the recent Cavite-wide Regional Higher Education Press Conference organized by the Association of Tertiary Press Advisers of Southern Tagalog (Satpa) at the Southville International School and Colleges in Las Piñas. The Satellite Newsletter won both in Old Cross Page and sixth in Inside Page in the group category while individual awards were received by Jhon Miranda, 3rd in Cross Style Drawing (Fr. Raleigh T. Santos, SDB, is Cebuano Visiting Ed. Rose Marilen Blanco, 4th in Poetry Writing (Fr. and 10th in News Writing (Fr. Marines Lagdao, 8th in Graphic Illustration (Fr. Ezra Jacobsen, 3rd in Graphic Illustration (C. and Precious Pantalita Jr., 10th in Feature Writing (Fr. The top five winners will compete in the Cavite-wide Higher Education Press Conference in Bacoor City in February.

AdMU debater is PH's top Jose Rizal Model Student

FOR THE second consecutive year, a student of the Ateneo de Manila University was honor the Search for the Jose Rizal Model Students of the Philippines (JRMSP) 2010. Meinrad B. Pedernales, AB Development Communications senior student, bested 11 other national winners and finalists in the search on being an exceptional student and accomplished citizen. The president's Rizal Policy holds responsible positions in some of the university's most important student organizations and has extensive documentation of the Supreme Student Government. Before her selection, she served as vice president for administration (2008) of the Pamonsalidan Debate Society, vice president for training and membership (2008-2010) and president (March–June 2010).

FEU student is grand champion in annual search

THE ACCOUNTANCY Department of the Institute of Economic Business and Finance of the Far Eastern University announced with pride that Rian Dana O. Sabinan, a 19-year BS Accountancy student, was grand champion of the 12th Annual National Search for the Most Outstanding Accounting Student sponsored by the Philippine Institute of Accountants. Sabinan consistently topped the finals, landing at least 25 first-place finish. "(I) practiced every day, especially in the month I was preparing for the finals," Sabinan said. Sabinan, currently in her second year, is majoring in Management Accounting. She graduated cum laude from the Philippine Science High School – Eastern Visayas Campus in Tacloban City. She is the daughter of Rodolfo Sabinan Jr. and Dana Sabinan. Dean C. Calleja, CPA, FEU vice president for academic affairs; Jaime Bautista, FEU president; and Lourdes Samaniego, chair of the accountancy department, also attended the awards ceremony.

Confucius Institute at AdMU offers culture classes

THE CORE BASIC Certificate at the Ateneo de Manila University Confucius Institute (AdMU) Mandarin and culture classes for Cycle 17 from Jan. 10 to March 19. Registration is ongoing. The Institute also offers the Preliminary Hsk Level 1 to Hsk Level 3 for beginners, Hsk Level 4 to Hsk Level 6 for Intermediate and Hsk Level 7 to Hsk Level 9 for Advanced. The classes will be held every Tuesday and Thursday, 6 to 8 p.m. The institute will also offer Chinese calligraphy classes on Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. (advanced) and 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. (basic). Classes will be conducted by Career Cheng, who trained under renowned Taiwanese calligraphers and has received awards in calligraphy competitions. Those who do not live in Quezon City can also enroll in the Makati Satellite Campus. For inquiries, call 4266099 local 5205/5206 (Loyola); 8913617, 8904813, 8944855, and 8943702 (Makati).

DNA SECRETARY VISITS UST

FORMER NAVOTAS Representative Alberto Romulo visited the molecular biology institute, the University of Santo Tomas, which is celebrating its 100th anniversary this month. Standing (from left) are Michael Angelo Gallardo, director of the Office for Alumni Relations; Fr. Rolando de la Rosa, OP, rector of the UST; Dean of the College of Tourism and Hospitality Management Dr. Pilar Romero; assistant to the rector for administration Dr. Cecile Gatbo; vice rector for academic affairs and research Rev. Fr. Romulo Rodriguez, O.P. regent of the College of Tourism and Hospitality Management Rev. Fr. Pedro Nong, O.P.; CEO of Navotas Rev. Fr. Rolando N. Dela Rosa, O.P.; CEO secretary Leonard Rex S. Acosta Bernardino; UST regent of the Faculty of Arts and Letters Dr. Michael Anthony Tolosa; dean of the Faculty of Arts and Letters Dr. Evelyn Tan-Bon; and assistant to the rector for student affairs and alumni relations professor Giovanni Tapiandor; director of the Office of Public Affairs Clarence Rosa; Dr. Rolando Ocampo, director of the Office of Public Affairs; Romulo's son Rex; Dr. Rolando Dela Rosa, OP; UST rector and Fr. Rector Aniceto Ortega Jr., OP.

CEU JOURNEYS SPLASH OWNERS

Dr. Rolando B. Bediones (center) with Dr. Ronaldo King Hernandez, owners of the Sangat Shipyard, Incorporated, and several team members, Splash Incentives, are this year's most outstanding graduates of the Lady of Fatima University (LOFU). Both graduated from Cum laude with honors in 1988. They received the most outstanding alumni awards from Dr. Carolina Monte G. Evangelista, Ph.D., RN (second from right), and President Ruben B. Canlas, DPA, during the university's annual grand alumni homecoming held City, 11, 2010 at the Bellevue complex resort in Barangay Dalandanan, Valenzuela City, Metro Manila.

New curricular programs to be offered by CLSU

CENTRAL LUZON State University will open its new and revised curriculum programs, five in the graduate level and one in the undergraduate level. The newly approved programs at the Science City of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija campus are Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Agricultural Entomology, Master of Science in Agricultural Economics, Master of Science in Agricultural Engineering, Master of Science in Education major in mathematics, and Doctor of Education in mathematics. All the Education (major in mathematics), Bio-majors have major in distinct mode, and Bachelor of Arts in Language and Literature. The PhD in Agricultural Entomology comprises a variety of specialized courses that deal with insects and other arthropods and their impacts on the environment. The Master of Science in Agricultural Economics, Agricultural Engineering, Central Luzon and above Registered Land Transfer Conditions Administration Degrees (CLSU) under the newly established Institute of Environmental Science and Management. The curriculum has four areas of specialization: environmental pollution control, conservation, environmental engineering, environmental monitoring, and governance, and sustainable agricultural systems. Meanwhile, both MS in Education programs (major in mathematics) have three specialization: Mathematics and Science instructional leadership, curriculum leadership, and school health and wellness, with a bachelor's degree in education major or minor in math, in government and private schools. The MS in Language and Literature is a traditional program in which students, after completing all the requirements of the first two years, will be awarded a certificate of completion of Arts. The diploma for MEd, with the graduate completion after four years of all academic requirements. Revised bachelor curricula will be used in the following BS in Agricultural Engineering (BSAE), BS in Fisheries, BS in Business Administration (BSBA) in Environmental Management (BSEM), in Education (BEd) in Technical Science, and Ph.D. in Animal Science.

First Asia Career Quest 2011

THE FIRST Asia Institute of Advanced Technology (Fiasat), together with First Asia Institute of Technology (Fiat) Office of Career Placement Services (OCPS), will host the Career Quest (CQ) 2011, a job fair and career development event on Feb. 11 (Friday) at the first Asia campus on Tiendesan City, Batangas. The event is being organized in partnership with Jobs DB, provider of online recruitment services in the Asia Pacific. Companies and institutions interested to participate in the job fair as sponsors or exhibitors may contact Beth Ann Lalongisip at (043) 980-2100, (043) 778-1630 local 103.

MSEUF tops Pacucoa list of accredited HEIs for 2010

THE MALAYSIAN Association of Colleges and Universities Commission on Accreditation (Pacucoa) has cited for having the highest number of accredited programs in the Philippines the Women's College University Foundation during its 25th Annual General Assembly on Dec. 10 at the Diamond Hotel, Manila. Emerald University has 23 accredited programs as of school year 2010-2011. Pacucoa also gave honorable mention to MSEUF for having the second number of candidate programs for accreditation in the country and for having the most number of accredited programs in the Caribbean Region. Pacucoa President Dr. Bonifacio Sibayan presented the trophies to the MSEUF delegation led by acting president and vice president for academic affairs Dr. Bonifacio B. Villones. The delegation from the University Council, who witnessed the awarding ceremonies, was composed of Gloria Rodrigo, Bokyo of the College of Computer Studies, Remedios Lagunzad of the College of Criminology and Law Enforcement, Dr. Jovencio Balcorpio of the College of Medicine, Dr. Claudio Rodriguez of Graduate Studies, and Secretariat, Jovy Tamondong of the College of Tourism and Hotel and Restaurant Management, Reina Velasquez of the Basic Education Department, engineer Jaime Magpoc of the Faculty Association Department and Dr. Villones.

2nd generation booksellers remain committed to education

TO THE SECOND generation Fontelera and Bohnlein, keeping Fox Book Store Inc. (FBSI) alive and well is more than just a question of being successful in business.

They see it as their way to contribute to improving the quality of education in the country.

Rogelio Fontelera said education was the best service they could give the country, he said the Fontelera-Bohnlein family behind the 63-year old business would continue to do what it did best, which was to provide quality educational materials to Filipinos, especially the youth.

While many family enterprises flounder when late generations assume control, for the Fontelera and Bohnlein, the transition from one generation to the next has been smooth and remains rewarding.

Bonnadette B. Bohnlein, president of the Fox Group of Companies, said he had drawn inspiration from the example set by his parents—their passion for work, integrity and sterling ethics helped him succeed.

His siblings—Rogelio and his wife Rose Ann, Teresita Fontelera Carpio, and Mario Bohnlein and his wife Pearlen—share the sentiment.

Armed with the right education and natural wits, a working knowledge of the business, the Fontelera and Bohnlein ancestry made the transition to managing the family business.

After a five-year stint in the late 60's, Bohnlein made selling their products his personal mission to help revive the business.

He travelled to every part of the country forging strong ties with various institutions and individuals that helped sustain the business.

Earning a law degree from Ateneo de Manila University, he developed the company's rules and regulations that became the framework for managing the corporation.

After graduating from college, Mario started flex-printing with their father Juanito in the early 1970s. He also spearheaded Fox Consultancy, a general manager, and handled government orders for BSE. His wife Pearlen later left her job in a bank to help manage Fox branches.

Rogelio, currently vice president-corporate secretary, manned the printing process and got Fox into publishing in the 1980s. His wife Rose Ann, who initiated the Cebuanium brand-line, helped widen the company's reach in central and northern Luzon, now heads Fox's Legal Materials department.

Teresita, an educational materials sales advisor, drew on her early experience selling books at the Mcinerny branch while still in school as sales manager for Fox's first provincial store in Cebu.

She developed business relationships with various schools and congregations that contributed to the growth of the business in Visayas and Mindanao.

She said her parents taught her how to deal with different kinds of customers.

As Fox book lines wants another decade and as the success officials prepare to transfer management of the company to a new generation, the Bohnlein and Fontelera scions learned on their vision for the business.

Bohnlein, who is also chair of the Fox Group of Companies, said they were committed to bringing FBSI to even greater heights, strengthening further their position in the local market while establishing a presence in other countries.

CLOCKWISE from left: Dominador Bohnlein, Rogelio Fontelera, his wife Rose Ann, Pearlen and Mario Bohnlein, and Teresita Fontelera Carpio

Seminar on school best practices

A SEMINAR on "Academic Ranking and SEN Incentive Planning" will be held Feb. 3-4 at the Tune Hotel-Mandirigma, Mandaluyong City.

The seminar will discuss ranking systems for tertiary in line with guidelines set by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), and viable compensation system.

Organized by the Center for Global Best Practices, the seminar aims to provide school owners and administrators, as well as human resource managers, tips on how to professionalize their institutions by establishing a ranking system. It will also suggest ways to address issues like dissatisfaction over salaries, hot employee turnover and drop in productivity.

Topics will include the legal basis of ranking, how to use the point system, merit promotion system and policies, etc. Participants will learn how to design compensation packages. Examples and cases will be presented.

Resource person is lawyer Evelyn T. del Rosario, labor and education lawyer and author of "Book on Frequently Propounded Asked Questions of School Owners, Administrators and Teachers," who has extensive experience in crafting school HR policy manuals and handbooks for personnel, faculty and students.

Dean Ma. Victoria Pedrosa de Leon, former managing director of Ayala Corp., who, as vice president for human resources of the Technological Institute of the Philippines, is campaigning for reform of the school system.

Interested participants may avail of early bird and group discounts. Visit www.cgbp.org or call (Manila) 8427148/709 or 5348666/69; (Cebu) 032-5122306/07. Seats are limited as pre-registration is required.

For details, e-mail program leader Katrina Wray at katrina@cgbp.org.

SIFE OFFICIALS IN MANILA

Vice President Jajomar C. Binay+ meets Sylvanus John (right), vice executive officer, and Dennis Liu, vice president for Asia Pacific, of Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) International. SIFE, a global organization operating in 39 countries, nhars university students to use business to help their communities. The SIFE officials were accompanied by Jose P. Luviano, Jr. (center), chair of Filipinas SIFE.

Course on applying business solutions to social problems

UBAY International Business School has launched a degree in the emerging academic discipline of using business solutions to solve social problems.

Students doing Ubay's Master in Social Entrepreneurship will spend part of their one-year degree grappling with real-world challenges such as poverty, charities, governments and nonprofit organizations, which have so far defied resolution.

Ubay's Master in Social Entrepreneurship is based on the principle that social problems can be tackled in ways similar to business problems.

The course combines conventional material for Masters in Business Administration, with subjects such as the economics of development. It asks tough questions about global society like whether development is hampered by poor private interest or by exploitation by more powerful economic players.

The course, which will be based at Ubay's London campus, begins in September. The first application deadline is June 30.

PARTNERS IN COMMUNICATION

Sun Cellular and the Ateneo Junior Marketing Association (AJMA) have partnered in Message Cast. Sun will provide the youth organization a powerful tool to keep its members informed and updated of upcoming events and projects. AJMA can also surf the World Wide Web through Sun Broadband's convenient, fast and reliable service with full IP Net+ Connection network. In photo are (from left): AJMA's Jacqueline Kierulf, vice president for human resources, and John Patrick Ig; VP for corporate relations, Ethel Villaroya, Sun Cellular assistant VP for brand ambassadors; and AJMA's Kevin Peter Pua, VP for events.

Billy The Kid, aka Abueva

From page F1

gumtree-of-old-town and trimmed grass leaves that, nightly, they would convert in the "Home" an artists and writers' haven, the Pako Roundup art Gallery and Café, teeming with artists of the remaining gardens of taste fixing the pre-war genteel Tab durante.

The other was built by master architect Don Tomas Mapua as an Art Deco garden-estate, as penultimate Tower restored its height by his Mapua-Lim heirs, being pre-eminent of new ares from cruises to cafés to gourmet cuisine. The Tower was first restored as a historic site where President Manuel Quezon played gentleman's poker with his Cabinet "on their flight to Corregidor island, after the Pearl Harbor bombing.

In a perfume garden

Those of us who fancied ourselves the liberated tribe in the contemporary Philippines—Billy the Kid's eldest brothers Teddy-O Moreno, their countrypoet Homero Ch. Veloso, strolling up on the once-burned James Joyce's "Ulysses" in the "black" novels of Inah Dimasuhot, Noyr Philippines of Ilo Bernardo Pamuel—all envied Billy The Kid's peasant genius and his playing field there, a town-cemetery and, half a century later, with us....from the Rotonda fountain on campus to a Jesse's bonfire, to the gardens and to the Japanese Ten Peace Gardens in Ueno Park. Going global after Billy The Kid's first steps in his little town's garden road. After all, where else could he walk silently like a Bedouin through under the temples of old banyan trees, passing hedges of violet forget-me-nots and patches of pansy, passing bushes upon man's gone of earth, a one-click cross to climb it, then, at last, having set iron-grilled high mansion front? What luck! A windy silence crowns it, for a Billy The Kid to climb and fly his kite like bird wings, to look around with a hunter's eyes. He does not know yet, like us, who he's making up, making captive this dizzying landscape beyond his island.

For joy, Communist financier says, is what his sculpting is about of iconic birds in flight (opening Gil Reyes' on show, etc. The same joy of Billy The Kid's self-made one-and-piece paper kite that, I imagined, nursed to Cyrie their strong from the backyard's tallest trees to the delight of children in their neighboring United States Army Quonset huts, among the memories of Billy The Kid's backyard, as once a grandfather.

No angst or bitter-blackness appeared to us as Billy The Kid's past was life and art, alike the later Bure French director Truffaut's film "Les Jeux Interdits" (Forbidden Games) where the fearful children played dangerously in a cemetery during World War II.

The long exercise from out of his aerial seat, his first banquet neighbors were Bob Ong, for the classic epic of our hero from If Batman's boy on a rainy river boat who threw the one dipper he had after the other bit into the water, wisely saying, "One bell with six wonders. Two could be found by a fisherman for his one."

Forrowing his use of a simple piece of wood as a Fulbright scholar in America, he thought of making something in memory of his baby sister in this manner of wood. At first, in a raffle, his favorite fish chicken was poignantly gone. When his "Being Moses in A Boat" won prizes and international acclaim, we would celebrate that win. Even an apology on the Napoleon's Absence who had let Dust that human child unpopful, lawyers' biblical travesty with Baby Moses, never to be drowned in mankind's memory.

A giant kite like a helicopter unlikely by the sign "Napoleon's Home" was to be our welcome sign for the Ilios director Francis Ford Coppola. He was one of the international guests invited to place a time capsule in the Perlasan Garden site of the UP Film Center. A metro stock drawn by Virmaun Wan set and he could not fly down, but Manon of the Bears Bowl-clan that owned the ideal Theater where we first saw "Gone With The Wind," that wondrous Civil War epic, did star visual with Ilios French ambassador Raphael Tasco.

Peace freaks

Don Mariano was a madman in Paris when he joined the Allied Nations to write a play on the outbreak of World War II, before under Tasco was a general in the Algerian War. So, neither one spoke of war, only the manner, "Make love, but War!" via the screen-right act, cinema of our 20th-century revolution, joining the screen classical arts.

Still Billy The Kid at least, he arrived driving a self-corded Buick-chariot, strolling among the ex-mariners, survivors of any war and now piano-freaks, he point-ed to the screen to display the sculpted gun and fired (with no ex-at us instead of live bullets.

The last time, the best of all times, during the celebration of 50 years of Unesco-Paris, the high-commissioners of culture declared Billy The Kid a National Treasure, along with the Japanese master director Akira Kurosawa, playwright Peter Arno Barbet Heard of the Arbor Revolution. In Unesco Paris, in a Japanese Ten Peace Garden, Napoleon's Absence who had let Dust that human child unpopful, lawyers' biblical travesty with Baby Moses, never to be drowned in mankind's memory.

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Don Mariano was a madman in Paris when he joined the Allied Nations to write a play on the outbreak of World War II, before under Tasco was a general in the Algerian War. So, neither one spoke of war, only the manner, "Make love, but War!" via the screen-right act, cinema of our 20th-century revolution, joining the screen classical arts.

Still Billy The Kid at least, he arrived driving a self-corded Buick-chariot, strolling among the ex-mariners, survivors of any war and now piano-freaks, he point-ed to the screen to display the sculpted gun and fired (with no ex-at us instead of live bullets.

The last time, the best of all times, during the celebration of 50 years of Unesco-Paris, the high-commissioners of culture declared Billy The Kid a National Treasure, along with the Japanese master director Akira Kurosawa, playwright Peter Arno Barbet Heard of the Arbor Revolution. In Unesco Paris, in a Japanese Ten Peace Garden,

Rantings about UP ...

From page F1

they told me to shut up.

I apologize that, like many Filipinos, my hopes has been on basketball. I am sorry, too, that, like many UP alumni, I have not bothered to find out what's been going on at our alma mater to cause its embarrassing beyond-words performance in the UAAP.

Frankly right, UP athletes do not have adequate and appropriate facilities for training and playing, how can they be expected to win at least a decent performance in sports? I agree that the university puts its athletes' training and safety in jeopardy with faulty facilities.

University officials should do something about the grossly neglected sports facilities, among others, and it won't do to point to the budget as an excuse not to. Sports have never been a priority in UP. I've been told. But this isn't just about sports or competitions. This is about a group of students who are supposed to be the model training in human kinetics so that later they can help others receive more physical counsels. This is about education, which is the essence of the state university's existence.

About the washrooms in the gym, I bet you the washrooms in almost all buildings in UP are the same. Faulty plumbing, lack of running water, dust, bad lighting, missing toilet seats, nauseating smell, etc.—all these conditions were there as described in complaint of UP they were still there when I went back for my BSE and, from what you've described in your letter, they are still there today. Unless forget to mention the cockroaches and the rats!

I had suspected UP's local female president to include this bit of housekeeping in her to-do-list because, after all, women are more at risk of getting sick from dirty toilets. But no such luck!

The point remains is, why have UP students tolerated such unacceptable standards of hygiene, sanitation, safety and accommodation all these years? We who are quick to launch a protest rally over something that happens outside the campus, we who are so quick and vocal at the slightest sign of similar behavior by governmental leaders, not who cannot be played with by politicians and their cynic doctors—why have we not put up a fight and said, as most of this genius, squalor and agony?

Cherokee ...

From page F1

World Young Readers Committee, which selects the story every year.

Beware of treaties, one can, Fiscal can specifically against accepting book donations. As a teacher, you must be aware that without book donations from schools in countries, we school librarians would be empty, especially in the after-math of floods, quakes and other calamities.

As editor of the Learning section, not once have I felt that I was accepting side-out or that publishing the text and graphics free of charge was debasing. We simply have some good in donating. Others, indeed, like Filipino artists and other countries that publish story and photo-page for the love of it. We all have chosen to avail of the donated stories for their merits in promoting literacy and newspaper reading.

I am also very much that these stories would reintroduce our young readers or would-be-readers them from their own cultures. Although I modified the stories to write their own lesson plans, I made sure to add my own story guides that came with each (Filipino, Thai, Japanese and Malaysian) story. I did not have to worry about the illustrations as they were already there.

I also made sure that I would let my students know that these stories were from other countries. Some of the stories were even translated from their original languages. I would tell my students that these stories were from Thailand, Malaysia, Japan, etc. I would tell them that these stories were written by authors from these countries. I would tell them that these stories were illustrated by artists from these countries.

I would tell them that these stories were published by publishers from these countries. I would tell them that these stories were published in these countries. I would tell them that these stories were published in these countries.

I would tell them that these stories were published in

Getting away from it all in Kiwi Land

BY MID-DECEMBER, I knew we needed a break. My son and I have had severe colds and coughs-off and on for more than three months. Several rounds of antibiotics offered only temporary relief.

My voice was cracking, which made hours-long lectures painful. The phones was crammed with meetings and appointments, all of which seemed urgent.

Managing time is an art and, frankly, I don't am quite good at it. Christmas presents, for instance, were finished a month early, and delivered at the end of November. Course material and term papers prepared a semester in advance, so I could focus on knowing my students better and responding to their needs during class.

I rarely called meetings (once a semester) and, when I did, never on night owls or weekends, since things that cropped up could always be dealt with through online groups.

But cell phones, e-mails, texts, which were supposed to make life more convenient, always intruded. I shared it as phones, exhausted in body and soul.

So I wrote some columns in advance, bid friends farewell, and went with my husband and our son to the South Island of New Zealand. It was supposed to be summer there.

Go with the flow

We packed for summer—shorts, Capri pants, sleeveless shirts. They ended up unused, unpacked even.

Fortunately, as a mom whose son got sick on the slightest change in weather, I packed for emergency, bringing clothes for cold weather. We were practically in thermals the entire trip.

The Glow in New Zealanders are called, after the flightless, nocturnal, furry national bird of the same name) were quick to point out that what we were experiencing was not normal. "The week before you arrived, we did not even have any rain," said our tour guide, as we attempted to hike in Arthur's Pass in the middle of a storm.

Small comfort that was. My husband's bikes gave way, streams became rivers, rain and wind continued their assault. Even the night owls in our group, since things cropped up could always be dealt with through online groups.

But cell phones, e-mails, texts, which were supposed to make life more convenient, always intruded. I shared it as phones, exhausted in body and soul.

In 3 more some columns in advance, bid friends farewell, and went with my husband and our son to the South (short)